

THE JOURNAL

Friday, July 1, 2005

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Sports Youth all-stars impressive in District 4 opener [C1]

Arts & Leisure 'Thunderbabe' has the power of laughter [C10]



JOANNA JHANDA/STAFF

THE EL CERRITO community pool opened in January 2004 after more than a year of renovations. The \$4.9 million price tag for renovation was covered by a parcel tax approved in 2000. The swim center recoups about 72 percent of its costs through fees.

New-look swim center popular with residents

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

Though it was an overcast day, Berkeley resident Debbie Woods sat in a lounge chair reading while her 9-year-old daughter Caroline Woods-Mejia and a friend jumped in and splashed around the recreation pool at the El Cerrito Swim Center.

"I thought the movies would be an option given the weather," Woods said, "but they wanted to come here."

More and more residents are heading to the El Cerrito Swim Center after it reopened in January 2004 following more than a year of renovations.

El Cerrito taxpayers made the

\$4.9 million renovations possible, approving a parcel tax in 2000 that raised the necessary money.

Though the city subsidizes about half of the recreation department's programs, the swim center recoups about 72 percent of its costs through fees, according to a recent study conducted by Maximus, a city consultant.

"It is my goal to be as self-supporting as possible," said aquatics supervisor Samantha Kelman.

"When Maxim did their study, we were about 72 percent self-sufficient. I'm not sure where we are at this moment, but we've had a good year so far. I would like to

See POOL, Page A8

Schools consider parcel tax

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

The Albany school board is considering placing a parcel tax on the November ballot to help bridge a growing budget deficit.

The board discussed the tax after approving its 2005-2006 budget at Tuesday's meeting. The district will spend \$25.3

IF YOU GO

- **WHAT:** Albany school board meeting
- **WHEN:** July 12 at 7:30 p.m.
- **WHERE:** Cornell Elementary School multipurpose room, 901 Cornell Ave.
- **INFORMATION:** 510-558-3766

million next year and possess \$1.8 million in reserve.

Board member Miriam Walden said the tax could raise an additional \$1 million annually for the district, which faces a \$125,000 budget deficit that may grow to \$400,000 over the next two years

See TAX, Page A8



GREGORY UPQUIAGA/STAFF

Rubble-rousers

WORKERS REMOVE debris as they raze the old El Cerrito High gym last Friday. Construction of the new campus is slated for spring 2006.

El Cerrito draws plans for path extension

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — About 30 years after the Ohlone Greenway was built, resident Steve Price rides his bike to his Berkeley office every morning on the landscaped pedestrian and bike path running through the center of the city.

"It's a great city resource," said Price, a member of the city's design review board. "It's a great joy for me to go out there and see people out there every morning. There are a lot of seniors out there getting exercise; a lot of people going to work; bicycling and walking to the BART station."

The city is planning the future of the path. Years from now, residents may see an expansion northward, as well as dog runs, solar-powered emergency phone boxes and more — if the money can be found.

In January, 2004, the city hired San Francisco-based Tenakee Design Group for up to \$21,895 to help design a conceptual plan for the path.

An eight-page map so far includes a detailed examination of the state of the Greenway and potential improvements.

The park and recreation commission toured one half of the greenway last week to get a sense of how the changes could work. The commission will complete the tour at its July 27 meeting.

The changes include, for example, proposed plantings to screen an existing electrical transformer near Central Avenue. South of that, the city would install a solar-powered emergency phone.

Landscape improvements, seating and play areas, trash cans and interpretive signs would dot the park. The plan proposes a dog run between Portola Drive and Schmidt Lane.

The plan also proposes to realign some of the path to improve site lines or move it away from BART poles.

JOANNA JHANDA/STAFF
EL CERRITO RESIDENTS George McRae and Rosemary Loubal talk while walking the unnamed part of Ohlone Greenway at the Richmond border Tuesday. Loubal and McRae are concerned about the possible removal of non-native trees from part of the trail.

To implement the plan would cost the city \$3.7 million. The plan will allow the city to apply for grants that may be available if state voters approve a bond measure that will potentially be on the ballot two years from now, said recreation director Monica Kortz.

"There might be more grant funding," said Kortz, "and unless we have a plan, we can't apply for grant funds."

Grants however, are no sure thing. A state agency last week rejected an application from the city for a \$204,000 grant that would have helped pay for an extension of the bike path north onto a 1.6-acre parcel.

The city will likely begin a creek restora-

tion on that parcel in mid-August and will seek out other grants for the greenway extension, Bradshaw said.

The greenway has seen a number of changes over the years.

Formerly a right-of-way for the Santa Fe Railroad, the city installed the bike path in the late 1970s, Price said. It now extends south through Albany and ends at the North Berkeley BART station.

But usage didn't pick up until the 1990s, after volunteers began planting trees and shrubs paid for with a grant.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Albany

Residents can view waterfront poll

Residents can see a poll showing 60 percent opposition to a waterfront mall at Albany City Hall, 1000 San Pablo Ave.

The poll, conducted by Oakland-based research firm Evans/McDonough, also shows that 72 percent of residents think the city is heading in the right direction and 24 percent believe school issues are the main problem facing the city.

Anonymous Solano Avenue business owners paid for the poll. For more information, call the city clerk at 510-528-5720.

— Alan Lopez

El Cerrito

Book on city to be published this summer

Arcadia Publishing is planning to release the book "Images of America: El Cerrito" in the late summer, said Tom Panas, the new president of the city historical society.

"We think the book will be very popular," wrote Panas in the most recent historical society newsletter. "It is 128 pages long and is packed with interesting pictures and captions that depict our town."

The historical society named 54-year-old Panas president after Art Schroeder stepped down in April.

"(Panas is) young, energetic and very interested in doing historical things for the society," said member Verne Odlin.

The society will hold its next meeting at noon on July 16 at Hubert Park at Sea View and Terrace drives. Residents are invited to bring a hot dish, salad or dessert. For more information, call Qdlin at 510-525-1730.

— Alan Lopez

City walk scheduled for July 9

Join Berkeley Path Wanderers and the Friends of Five Creeks at 10 a.m. July 9 for a walk exploring Indian, Spanish, and early El Cerrito history as well as the recent restoration along Cerrito Creek and Albany Hill. Meet on the south edge of El Cerrito Plaza at Cornell Street. Return in time for the Saturday El Cerrito Plaza farmers' market. For information, contact Susan Schwartz at 510-848-9358 or f5creeks@aol.com.

— Alan Lopez

Lucky resident will win shopping spree

Register by 5 p.m. Sunday for a chance to win a 60-second shopping spree at Skein Lane, a needlework store at 7512 Fairmount Ave.

The winner will be able to fill their project bag with as much yarn and fiber as they can in 60 seconds. The event will be held the weekend of July 9.

"Knitting is very popular right now, and it seemed like another way to promote it," said store owner Carolyn Pugh.

For more information, call 510-525-9276 or go online at www.skeinlane.com.

— Alan Lopez

Kensington

Events ordinance available for review

The June draft of the county's proposed events law is available online at www.aboutkensington.com. Click on "government" and then "Kensington Municipal Advisory Council" to access it.

If approved by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, the ordinance would allow annually two events with up to 200 people and one event with up to 300 people at a backyard amphitheater on Coventry Road in Kensington.

The advisory committee is asking the county to reduce the number of annual events to two and reduce the number of people who can attend, including staff, to 125.

That letter, plus advisory meeting minutes dating back to January 2002, are also available online.

The county's planning commission will consider the draft ordinance for a recommendation to the board of supervisors at 7 p.m. July 12, at 651 Pine St., Room 107 in Martinez. Call 510-925-335-1210.

— Alan Lopez

School board official speaks to residents

Howard Cohen, the regional superintendent for secondary education at the West Contra Costa School District, told a group of about 50 Kensington residents to call his secretary if they have questions or concerns about the schools. The number is 510-620-2014.

"If you need something or have a question," Cohen said, "I promise you'll get a response."

He agreed with property owners association president Gail Feldman, who said the school district's phone answering system is very difficult to navigate.

Cohen made his remarks Saturday at Kensington's annual property owners association meeting. He said the district does a lousy job of customer service, and needs to learn that residents are its customers, not the problem, he said.

"The district is trying to turn itself around," he said. "It's a very big ship."

— Alan Lopez

Fix our Ferals' fund-raiser set for July 16

Fix Our Ferals will hold a "Fund Our Ferals" fund-raiser on July 16 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Church of Kensington, #1 Lawson Road, Kensington. The fund-raiser will include a silent auction, food and wine. Admission is \$35 and includes refreshments. Auction items will include a Mark Bulwinkle Sculpture and other art, weekend getaways, and dinners for two. Entertainment will include classical pianist Katherine Buss and jazz pianist Debbie Poryers. Former Berkeley mayor Shirley Dean is also scheduled to attend.

— Craig Lazzaretti

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ALBANY POLICE REPORTS

Tuesday, June 21

■ **NISSAN STOLEN** — Between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. someone stole a red 1995 Nissan parked at 555 Pierce St. There were no witnesses.

Wednesday, June 22

■ **DUI** — At about 12:30 a.m. officers stopped a gray and silver 1985 Nissan 240SX near San Pablo Avenue and Harrison Street for a vehicle code violation. They arrested the driver, a 48-year-old Berkeley man, for DUI. He was cited and released with a notice to appear.

■ **OUTSTANDING WARRANT** — At about 5 a.m. officers arrested a 41-year-old Oakland man near the Albany waterfront for an outstanding San Francisco warrant for driving with a suspended license in the amount of \$20,000. He was cited and released with a notice to appear.

■ **PLANT STOLEN** — During the night someone stole a plant from a residence in the 1000 block of Key Route Boulevard. There were no witnesses.

■ **TWO BIKES STOLEN** — Some-

one stole a green Sit Pro bike and a silver and white 26-inch Schwinn Bike from the bike rack near the Albany pool on Portland Avenue. There were no witnesses.

■ **THIEF ESCAPES** — At about 6 p.m. a person described as a male juvenile, about 17 years old, wearing blue jeans, white T-shirt and carrying a black backpack, stole CDs and a DVD player from the Radio Shack store in the 500 block of San Pablo Avenue. He was last seen on foot heading north on San Pablo Avenue.

■ **WARRANT ARREST, VEHICLE RECOVERED** — At about 9:15 p.m. officers stopped a gray 2005 Ford Taurus near Buchanan and Fillmore streets for a vehicle code violation.

The driver, a 29-year-old Oakland man, was found to have an outstanding warrant from Solano County for burglary, drug possession and making threats in the amount of \$30,000. A check found that the vehicle had been reported as stolen from Las Vegas. The driver was arrested and released on \$40,000 bail.

■ **VOLKSWAGEN STOLEN** — Dur-

ing the night a 1984 Volkswagen parked in the 600 block of Spokane Avenue was stolen.

Friday, June 24

■ **DUI, HIT AND RUN** — Officers arrested a 33-year-old Berkeley woman in the 700 block of Pierce Street for DUI and hit and run. She was cited and released with a notice to appear.

■ **AUTO BREAK-IN** — A resident in the 1100 block of Evelyn Avenue reported that during the night someone stole CDs and medicine from his unlocked black 2001 Honda Accord. There were no witnesses.

■ **AUTO BREAK-IN** — During the night someone broke into a burglar Toyota parked in the 400 block of Jackson Street. There were no witnesses.

■ **ARREST** — At about 4:30 p.m. officers stopped a blue 1988 Toyota Camry in the 1000 block of Kains Avenue for a vehicle code violation. They arrested the driver, a 22-year-old Richmond man, for burglary and conspiracy. He was cited and released with a notice to appear.

■ **BUSINESS BREAK-IN** — At about 9 a.m. someone broke the front window of a computer store in the 600 block of San Pablo Avenue.

■ **OUTSTANDING WARRANTS** — At about 10 p.m. officers arrested a 52-

year-old transient man from Berkeley near Dartmouth and Kains Avenue for two outstanding Berkeley warrants for possession of drugs and possession of a controlled substance. He was cited and taken to Santa Rita Jail.

Sunday, June 26

■ **ASSAULT** — Shortly before midnight an Albany man reported that two guys had beat him up about 20 minutes earlier while he was walking the 1400 block of Solano Avenue. Officers took the report.

Monday, June 27

■ **AUTO BREAK-IN** — During the night someone broke into a burglar Toyota parked in the 400 block of Jackson Street. There were no witnesses.

■ **ARREST** — At about 4:30 p.m. officers stopped a blue 1988 Toyota Camry in the 1000 block of Kains Avenue for a vehicle code violation. They arrested the driver, a 22-year-old Richmond man, for burglary and conspiracy. He was cited and released with a notice to appear.

■ **WALKING STICK STOLEN** — An Albany man reported that someone stole his walking stick while he was doing his laundry in the 1500 block of Solano Avenue. He did not see anyone.

■ **BUSINESS BREAK-IN** — At about 9 a.m. someone broke the front window of a computer store in the 600 block of San Pablo Avenue.

■ **OUTSTANDING WARRANTS** — At about 10 p.m. officers arrested a 52-

year-old man reported that someone stole his walking stick while he was doing his laundry in the 1500 block of Solano Avenue. He did not see anyone.

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year-old man reported that someone stole his walking stick while he was doing his laundry in the 1500 block of Solano Avenue. He did not see anyone.

■ **ACURA RECOVERED** — Police recovered a stolen 1990 Acura Legend on Wildwood Place. The owner reported the vehicle stolen on May 7.

■ **CAPRICE RECOVERED** — At about 4:30 p.m. officers recovered a stolen 1979 Chevrolet Caprice on Humboldt Street at Macdonald Avenue. The owner reported the vehicle stolen to Oakland police two days earlier.

— Alan Lopez

Sunday, June 26

■ **WALLET STOLEN** — Sometime between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. someone stole a wallet and cell phone from a home on the 1700 block of Lexington Avenue. The home was entered through an open window while the victim was sleeping, police said.

■ **BURGLARY** — At 4:52 a.m. someone broke the window of a storage area of a business on the 3500 block of Carlson Boulevard. Vandal appeared to have rifled through some items but took nothing, police said.

— Alan Lopez

■ **CAPRICE RECOVERED** — At about 4:30 p.m. officers recovered a stolen 1979 Chevrolet Caprice on Humboldt Street at Macdonald Avenue. The owner reported the vehicle stolen to Oakland police two days earlier.

■ **BURGLARY** — At 4:52 a.m. someone broke the window of a storage area of a business on the 3500 block of Carlson Boulevard. Vandal appeared to have rifled through some items but took nothing, police said.

— Alan Lopez

■ **DRUG ARRESTS** — At 9:30 a.m., police arrested three local residents in their late 30s and early 40s on suspicion of possessing crack cocaine and ammunition after a traffic stop at Hague Boulevard and Knott Avenue. Police arrested a 42-year-old Rodeo woman, a 40-year-old Richmond man and a 36-year-old El Cerrito man.

■ **SHOPLIFTING ARREST** — Shortly after 6 p.m., police arrested a 46-year-old San Pablo man on suspicion of shoplifting at Long's Drug and Marshalls.

■ **DRUG ARREST** — At 9:15 a.m., police arrested a 34-year-old San Pablo woman on suspicion of driving with a suspended license and for possessing crack cocaine and crack cocaine and for being under the influence of cocaine at San Pablo and Knott avenues. The man also had a no-ball felony burglary warrant for his arrest, police said.

■ **SHOPLIFTING ARREST** — At 4:45 p.m., police arrested a 38-year-old Novato man on suspicion of shoplifting at Target. The man had prior theft convictions, police said.

■ **DRUG ARREST** — At 5:15 a.m., police arrested a 54-year-old El Cerrito man on suspicion of possession of crack cocaine and for being under the influence of cocaine at San Pablo and Knott avenues. The man also had a no-ball felony burglary warrant for his arrest, police said.

■ **MINIVAN STOLEN** — Sometime between 5 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., someone took a 2003 Dodge Caravan from the 9000 block of San Pablo Avenue.

■ **STOLEN VEHICLE ARREST** — At 9:15 a.m., police arrested a 14-year-old Richmond boy on suspicion of driving a stolen vehicle after he ran a stop sign at Manila Avenue and Navellier Street.

■ **MINIVAN STOLEN** — Sometime between 5 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., someone took a 2003 Dodge Caravan from the 9000 block of San Pablo Avenue.

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Happy Independence Day, fellow Americans

"The United States themselves are essentially the greatest poem."

— Walt Whitman, preface to "Leaves of Grass," 1855

"It is by the providence of God that in our country we have these three unspeakably precious things: freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, and the prudence never to practice either of them."

— Mark Twain, 1897

"O, let America be America again/The land that has never been yet/And yet must be/The land where every man is free."

— Langston Hughes, 1949

"America is a large, friendly dog in a very small room. Every time it wags its tail, it knocks over a chair."

— Arnold Toynbee, 1954

"America is a romance in which we all partake."

— Newt Gingrich, 1995.

AS I WRITE THIS, I'm looking at one of the most moving works of art I've ever seen. It's a World War I propaganda poster showing Columbia laying a wreath at a memorial to the dead with these words carved in the granite: "Honor Roll: Du Bois, Smith, O'Brien, Cejka, Haucke, Pappandirkopoulos, Andressi, Villot, Levy, Turovich, Kowalski, Chrzczanewski, Knutson, Gonzales. AMERICANS ALL!"

That's about as good a definition of our democracy I know. On Monday we'll celebrate the 228th anniversary of the day it began, when a handful of men gathered in Philadelphia and mutually pledged "our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honour."

They meant it, too. They knew that if they lost — and David McCullough's new book "1776" makes clear just how close that came to happening — every man in that room would be hanged as a traitor.

To buck up their spirits, they made nervous little jokes.

When John Hancock said, "We must all hang together," Ben Franklin quipped, "Yes, or we shall all hang separately."

The corpulent Benjamin Harrison of Virginia turned to skinny Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts and said, "I'll have an easier time of it than you because my neck will be broken in an instant, while you'll be kicking in the air for a half hour."

They weren't perfect. Many of them owned slaves. In Lon-



MARTIN SNAPP
Snapp Shots

don, Samuel Johnson wondered aloud, "How is it that the loudest yelps for liberty come from the drivers of slaves?"

And even the non-slaveholders had a pretty limited notion of who should be included in that "more perfect union": Protestant white men of property.

But their genius was that they invented a system that could outgrow them.

Thomas Jefferson's generation was shocked when Andrew Jackson ushered in the age of the common man, extending the right to vote to all white men. The Jacksonians were scandalized in their turn a generation later, when Lincoln freed the slaves.

In 1928 Al Smith became the first Catholic to run for president. He was roundly defeated by a vicious anti-Catholic whispering campaign. But he shrugged it off.

"The only cure for the evils of democracy," he said, "is more democracy."

In 1960, when I was a teenager, the second Catholic ran for president, and the anti-Catholic slurs started all over again. The conventional wisdom said a Catholic would never be elected.

But this time, John F. Kennedy won. In 1984 the first woman was nominated for vice president, and in 2000 I saw something I never thought I'd ever see when a Jew, Joe Lieberman, was tapped for V.P.

Now the pundits are saying women have a real chance at both presidential nominations next time: Hillary Clinton for the Democrats and Condoleezza Rice for the Republicans.

For all its faults, our country is still what Lincoln called it: "the last, best hope of Man."

Or, as one of his campaign songs from 1860, "For Lincoln and Liberty Too," put it: "We'll build us a temple of freedom/And make it spacious within/So all who seek shelter can join us/Whatever the hue of their skin."

Happy Independence Day.

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or e-mail msnapp@cctimes.com.

PET OF THE WEEK

CAITLIN is a 1-year-old black female terrier/lab mix, and may be available for adoption at the Berkeley East Bay Humane Society. Caitlin is a sweet, confident pup, according to the Humane Society, with lots of energy and a funny, fury face. She loves toys and will amuse herself for hours with a tennis ball or chew toy. She already knows "sit" and would love someone who has the time to continue with her training and take her to obedience class. Caitlin would do best in an active home with older children because of her size and energy level. If you would like

BERKELEY — The following animals may be available for adoption at the Berkeley East Bay Humane Society. Dogs: 6-month-old female Aussie mix blue merle; 1-year-old female terrier/Lab mix black; 2-year-old male Chihuahua mix tan; 3-month-old male terrier mix black and tan; 3-month-old male terrier mixable and white; 10-month-old male Pitt bull/Lab mix tan; 3-month-old female border collie mix black; 2-year-old female poodle mix white.

Cats: 4-year-old female DSH brown and white tabby; 3-year-old female DSH/Abby mix brown; 5-year-old female DSH tortie; 5-year-old female DSH dilute tortoiseshell; 1-year-old female DSH brown tabby; 3-year-old male DSH orange and white; 1-year-old female DSH black; 5-year-old female DMH white; 4-year-old female DLH tortoiseshell; 8-year-old female DSH tortie; 1-year-old male DSH black; 3-year-old female DSH tortoiseshell; 10-month-old female DSH black; 8-year-old male Siamese mix seal point; 7-year-old male Siamese mix brown tabby; 4-year-old female DSH dilute tortie; we also have kittens of various ages, sizes and colors.

(DLH: domestic long hair; DMH: domestic medium hair; DSH: domestic short hair)

more information or would like to meet Caitlin or other animals, please contact the Berkeley East Bay Humane Society, or stop by the shelter.

Adoption fee: dogs \$125; cats \$100; rabbits \$40 — including spaying neutering and age-appropriate shots. There is an overnight hold period. The Berkeley East Bay Humane Society is located at 2700 Ninth St., Berkeley. Hours are 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Visit www.berkeleyhumane.org or call 510-845-7735.



BERKELEY EAST BAY HUMANE SOCIETY

824 ASHY AVE • BERKELEY
510-843-4832
www.ashbylumber.com

Mon - Fri 7am - 5:30pm • Sat 8 - 5:00 • Sun 9 - 4:30

Neighbors

FACES & PLACES

LeBlanc to head schools for now

The West Contra Costa school board on Monday appointed Chief Academic Officer Cynthia LeBlanc as interim superintendent of the 32,000-student district, effective in August, pending contract negotiations.

The 57-year-old has served as interim superintendent in two other Bay Area school districts during her 35-year career in education. This past school year in West Contra Costa, which has a \$268 million budget, LeBlanc served as both chief academic officer and head of personnel.

LeBlanc will take over for Superintendent Gloria Johnston, who is leaving after six years as school chief to become dean of education at National University in La Jolla.

— Shirley Dang

The administrative team at Piedmont High School is set for

— Lisa Coffee-Mahoney



TERRY GEORGESON is leaving Albany High School to become assistant principal at Piedmont High School.

the upcoming school year, with the recent hire of Albany High School assistant principal Terry Georgeson as the school's assistant principal.

Georges, 47, takes over for Randy Booker, who was selected in April to replace retiring principal Pam Bradford.

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Georges, 47, takes over for Randy Booker

GENERAL MANAGER • SHAREEF DAJANI
HILLS EDITOR • CRAIG LAZZERETTI

ALBANY • EL CERRITO • KENSINGTON

THE JOURNAL

... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.

— Thomas Jefferson,

EDITORIAL

'Poll' not in the best interest for Albany

A PRIVATELY FUNDED POLL designed to gauge Albany residents' views about possible development along the waterfront seems to have raised more questions than it has answered. The poll showed that 60 percent of those surveyed opposed the building of a mall there, but that result was overshadowed at last week's City Council meeting by questions regarding the methods used to produce that figure and the motives of those behind the survey.

Critics characterized it as a "push poll" that purposely created a slanted picture of the hotly debated waterfront issue. But Councilman Robert Lieber latched onto the results as evidence that residents of Albany are opposed to development. All that we really know about the people behind this poll is that former Albany City Council candidate Brian Parker funded it by raising \$15,000 from Solano Avenue business owners who wished to remain anonymous.

Instead of providing some much-needed clarity to the issue, all the poll appears to have accomplished is further divide the opposing camps in this battle and leave residents skeptical about the process being used to determine the future of the waterfront. It's unfortunate because a credible poll on this matter could serve a valuable purpose in helping the City Council develop a plan for the waterfront if and when the time comes to make such a decision. Both sides seem preoccupied with trying to shape public opinion to fit their objectives, when the goal should be to develop a clear and accurate picture of the what the people of Albany want.

It's time for the City Council to take control of this issue, instead of letting the pro- and anti-development forces try to control it. The council erred in allowing a poll of such questionable validity to come before it for consideration. If the council is truly interested in finding out what residents want, it should bring both sides together to support and fund an independent poll using questions and methods that everyone can agree on.

As the situation currently stands, special interests seem to be dictating the debate over the waterfront. On the one side, a mysterious group of donors has funded a poll that many perceive as an attempt to dash development plans. On the other side, executives with developer Caruso Affiliated are meeting with hundreds of residents to discuss their ideas for the land. What we don't know is whether these groups are making an honest effort to discern the views of Albany's residents or a self-interested attempt to promote their own agendas. Or a combination of both.

The question for the council is whether it will stand up for the interests of Albany's residents and make a good-faith effort to address their concerns in designing a long-term plan for the waterfront that will likely affect generations. There's still time to get this process right. Whatever happens on the waterfront depends in large measure on what happens to Golden Gates Fields, and that's still the million dollar question in Albany. Until it's answered, much of this debate will continue to center around mere speculation.

But if the council fails to bring credibility to this process, then whatever decision it ultimately makes will leave people bitter and divided — and wondering whether their views really mattered in the end.

YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

State Senate

Don Perata: (D-9th District: Albany, Berkeley) State Capitol, Room 4061, Sacramento, CA 95814, 916-445-6577. Fax: 916-327-1997; 1515 Clay St., No. 2202, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-286-1334. Fax: 510-286-3885. E-mail: senator.perata@sen.ca.gov.

Tom Torlakson: (D-7th District: El Cerrito, Kensington) 2801 Concord Blvd., Concord CA 94519; 800-859-9900 or State Capitol, Room 2068, Sacramento CA 95814; 916-445-6083, e-mail: senator.torlakson@sen.ca.gov

Assembly

Lori Hancock: (D-14th District: Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Kensington, Richmond, San Pablo, North and West Oakland) State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249, 916-319-2014. Fax: 916-319-2114; 712 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, CA 94530. 510-559-1406. Fax: 510-559-1478

County Supervisors

John Gioia: (1st District) 11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, El Cerrito, CA 94530, 510-374-3231. Fax: 510-374-3429. E-mail: dist1@bos.co.contra-cost.ca.us

Keith Carson: (5th District) 1221 Oak St., Ste. 536, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-272-6695. Fax: 510-271-5151. E-mail: kcarnson@co.alameda.ca.us

EBMUD

David Richardson: Ward No. 4 (Albany, Berkeley, and Emeryville; part of Oakland; El Cerrito and Kensington)

ton. E-mail: oakport@igc.org

East Bay Regional Parks

Jean Siri: Ward 1 (Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Kensington, part of Pinole, and San Pablo). E-mail: jsiri@ebparks.org

AC Transit

Jon Wallace: Ward 1 (West Contra Costa and Northern Alameda counties). E-mail: jwallace@actransit.org; phone 510-891-7143; fax 510-234-7689.

Steg Sanitary District

Phone 510-524-4668 or see online at www.stegesd.dts.ca.us.

Cities

El Cerrito: City offices, 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-215-4300. E-mail: citycouncil@el-cerrito.ca.us

Albany: City offices, 1000 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-528-5710.

Kensington: Fire Protection District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-527-8395

Police Protection and Community Services District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-526-4141

School boards

West Contra Costa Unified School District: 510-620-2246

Albany Unified School District: 510-558-3766

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www.elcerritojournal.com

JEFF HANSEN • HILLS NEWSPAPERS

TAKE CARE OF YOUR PETS THIS INDEPENDENCE DAY

Poor Maxie. We forgot to put him inside last 4th of July.



I know. He's been living under my deck since then.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Public art' tax

El Cerrito is moving forward with a proposal that will force tax developers to pay for "public art," whatever that is.

Ultimately, this will be a tax on all consumers who patronize businesses or buy or rent housing in El Cerrito. But unlike taxes that pay for police or street maintenance, or other truly public services where everyone benefits, the primary beneficiaries of this tax will be, largely, just its promoters, the city's Arts and Culture Commission.

While many of this commission's activities are, no doubt, laudable, this proposal goes far beyond the role that government should play in our lives. Art, like religion, is too subjective and personal to be a government service.

If the El Cerrito Arts Commission cannot raise the funds it needs from voluntary contributions, then any tax should be approved by the voters, not just the City Council.

If the people of El Cerrito want to impose a tax on themselves to support public art, then they should be given the opportunity to make that choice themselves.

Dick Patterson
El Cerrito

Attacks will continue

Before I was a doctor, I was an evolutionary biologist.

Dogs are mammals, as are humans. Just as there is a part of the human brain that sometimes takes over and causes people to do unthinkable things, dogs also have this part of the brain. Couple this with a breed of dog that is specifically bred to bite and not let go, and you have a never-ending potential of unthinkable tragedies.

These attacks will continue, even if every single pit bull in America is owned by good, well-intentioned and responsible owners.

Why do we never hear about a lethal attack by a toy poodle or a border collie? That is because the necessity for the owner to be responsible is minimized by the combination of the mammalian brain and those breeds of dog.

I am not advocating any particular political or legal action here. I am only advising people to disregard as irrelevant that part of a story where people report, "I can't believe it, Spike was always so gentle and good with children."

Eric Husby-Gerry

Albany

Lieber should resign

The June 20 Albany City Council meeting was used by Councilman Robert Lieber, accompanied by Brian Parker, as a bully pulpit for their agenda.

After the presentation of a \$16,000, anonymously funded push poll of 400 selected Albany residents who were addressed by name, Lieber told the audience at the meeting that development at the Magna-owned racetrack would never happen, no matter what — done and over. And he was none too polite about it, either.

The survey company used was EMC (Evans/McDonough Co., Inc.), which states in its Web site: "EMC ... employs a variety of research and political-model methods to help our clients wage a successful campaign for public approval of their project."

The City Council is not the place for one member to politic for a particular agenda, and the residents present made their opinions known by their cogent objections to Lieber's actions.

Councilman Lieber has shown himself to be more concerned with using the council chamber as a forum for his personal agenda than for the welfare of the city of Albany. The City Council would do well to ask for his resignation.

Lubov Mazur

Albany

Where's the logic?

Shirley Dang's article regarding the retirement/resignation of West Contra Costa school district Superintendent Gloria Johnston notes that there was a sharp rise in student scores during Johnston's six-year tenure.

Then it quotes Gail Mendes, president of United Teachers of Richmond, as saying that Johnston's departure is a "victory for the children."

What's Mendes' logic? Is this an IQ test and Mendes failed it?

Cathie Kosek

Kensington

Kosek is a retired teacher and administrator.

Questions verdict

I am not convinced the jury made the correct decision in the Michael Jackson case. However, the jury has spoken.

Whether we like it or not, the jury heard the evidence and rendered a decision. This is not the first time, nor will it be the last time, that a jury's decision is questioned.

I believe the prosecution made a tactical mistake with the charges. At least that is what I got from the juror interviews.

I think the jury made its decision with what it was given, right or wrong.

John G. Cakars

Albany

WRITE TO THE JOURNAL

Letters to the editor and op-ed pieces reflect the opinion of the writer and must include the author's first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification. Maximum letter length is 300 words. Maximum op-ed length is 450 words.

Letters are subject to editing for brevity, grammar and style. Not all letters may be published.

Mail: 4301 Lakeside Dr., Richmond, CA 94806

Fax: 510-262-2776

e-mail: wcletters@ccitimes.com

Please write JOURNAL LETTERS on the envelope, at the top of the fax or in the subject field of the message.

Good news, bad news

There is good news and bad news about Alan Lopez's article on the June 20 Albany City Council meeting (Journal, 6/24/05).

The good news is that it gets the message to Caruso Affiliated, prospective developers of a commercial project on the Albany waterfront, that the majority of at least a small sample of Albany residents contacted in a push poll (bankrolled by "anonymous" individuals and local businesses) indicated they do not want a mall on the waterfront. (Never mind that such a development has not been proposed by Caruso or anyone else.) I suspect there is widespread agreement with that sentiment.

The bad news is that Lopez omitted from his article the most important information that went on at the meeting. Namely, that one council member demonstrated, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that he neither understands nor cares about his roles and responsibilities as an elected public official by flatly stating there will be no development on the waterfront and he will not listen to any discussion of such a plan.

Further, Lopez failed to report the outraged response of Albany residents in the audience to Robert Lieber's unbelievable display of Texas hubris and public trampling of their First Amendment rights.

Lieber should step down in deference to a responsible individual who will courageously listen to all who wish to speak on the matter, and consider all sides of this important local issue. There is nothing honorable about his behavior. Albany deserves better.

Sally Outis

Albany

Haiti's resistance

On June 18, Lucie Tondreau, a Haitian-American activist from Miami, spoke in El Cerrito about grassroots resistance in Haiti.

With clarity and energy from her long and dedicated experience, she highlighted the necessity of getting the truth about what is happening in Haiti. Americans need to speak up about the terrible injustices being inflicted on the Haitian people.

In news reports originating elsewhere than "on the ground," the very ones suffering violence are falsely being accused of being responsible for it!

The real cause of violence in Haiti is U.S. foreign policy, which supported the coup. Our policy has robbed Haiti of its democratically elected president, of its constitution, and of every semblance of fairness and justice.

Hundreds of political prisoners languish in prison, without any due process.

I urge support of Rep. Barbara Lee's Truth Act and of the Comprehensive Immigration Fairness Act, HR 257. Temporary protective status for Haitians fleeing violence is long overdue. Short of the return of their democracy, it will continue to be necessary. Further information may be found at: www.haitiaction.net.

Stella Goodpasture
Oakland

Libraries strive to meet the needs of young, old

Site of the week:

The ages defining 'children' and 'young adults' are not consistent across libraries. ... Surveys show that the low and high libraries use to define children and young adults vary. For example, some libraries consider 15 years of age as the lower limit for young adults, whereas other libraries consider 15 as the upper limit."

— National Center for Education Statistics Web site (nces.ed.gov)



JULIE WINKELSTEIN
At the Library

populated by toddlers and their parents.

The next question is: If specific ages are targeted for each of these areas, what should they be? As my beginning quote shows, ages for this vary widely. The library system I work for considers high school the beginning of young adulthood. This puts kindergartners through eighth graders in the same area, being served by the same budget and the same staff. In a small library, this probably doesn't really matter — there may not even be a young adult librarian, and the children's staff serves newborns through high school seniors.

I know of many libraries where this is true, and there are programs and materials for all these ages. But in a library system where a line is drawn between these populations, it has become more difficult to know just what to do. As someone mentioned at a

meeting I attended recently, kids are growing up faster than ever.

Part of the dilemma is the difference between a public library system and the commercial world. Many of the products and services targeted for children as young as 9 — such as diet books, makeup and popular music — may not be appropriate for these ages. But with advertising and movies, computer games and television programs making them visible and attractive, children want them. So, if there is the demand, does that mean the children's section public library should provide this kind of information for these library users? What exactly is our goal — to provide a thoughtful but possibly old-fashioned standard or to follow popular trends?

This is a touchy issue for many of us, as we shy away from anything that could look like censorship, yet strive at

the same time to provide age-appropriate materials. But one point made to me recently by a fifth-grade teacher really made sense. She pointed out that when parents see a "J" (for juvenile) label on something, they assume it is appropriate for their child — while a young adult or teen label implies it may be more controversial. And even though librarians everywhere emphasize it is up to a parent to monitor what their child brings home from the library — no matter which section it comes from — there is still that secure feeling that comes from knowing your child is bringing home something that came from the same section as "Runaway Bunny."

Reach librarian Julie Winkelstein at jwinkelstein@aclibrary.org or at the Albany Library, 510-526-3720 ext. 17.

AVE YOU ever wondered about the difference between the children's area and the teen one? If you aren't the only one this is an ongoing discussion in public libraries, as we to meet the needs of all young library patrons. Seventh and eighth graders in particular are difficult to plan for: Some want books or music that may be

BRARY ACTIVITIES

Swazzle will perform a puppet show at the Albany Library Tuesday at 7 p.m., the third of the library's summer-long day events for all ages. The show, "Hazel and the Dragon," about Hazel, the brave little tree; Fibert, the not-so-brave ice; and Pepper, a baby dragon with a broken wing. It features hand-crafted puppets, audience participation, and a special behind-the-scenes presentation.

No registration is required for these free events, which are appropriate for all ages. The Albany Library is located at 1247 Marin in Albany, and is a branch of the Alameda County Library. For more information, Julie Winkelstein at 510-526-3720 ext. 17 or e-mail to jwinkelstein@aclibrary.org.

— Craig Lazeretti

Colibri will use an array of traditional folk instruments to present an interactive journey through Latin America on July 17 at 7 p.m. at the Albany Library. Lichi Fuentes and Alisa will comprise this musical duo, their repertoire includes songs from many countries — from a Bolivian festival song to a mother dancing with her baby, to a Chilean song about love, as well as popular Mexican singalongs.

This is the fourth in a series of summer Tuesday evening programs. No registration is required. For more information, Julie Winkelstein at 510-526-3720 ext. 17 or e-mail jwinkelstein@aclibrary.org.

— Craig Lazeretti

■ ■ ■

Jill Lebeau, a psychotherapist and Stephanie Barbic, a professional organizer, will speak on decluttering your life at the El Cerrito Library on July 18 at 7 p.m. Lebeau is a psychotherapist, motivational speaker and author who specializes in rapid transformation — a method she developed that accelerates the expansion of psychological and spiritual consciousness.

Barbic is a professional who specializes in organizing your home/business so that you can have peace of mind. She is a member of the National Association of Professional Organizers and the National Study Group on Chronic Disorganization.

The El Cerrito Library is located at 6510 Stockton Ave.

For more information, call 510-526-7512.

— Craig Lazeretti

■ ■ ■

Children of all ages are invited to take a trip to the land of Calora this summer by playing the Alameda County Library summer reading game, "Search for Dragonfire." The game will be available at the Albany Library through Aug. 20.

— Craig Lazeretti

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meeting I attended recently, kids are growing up faster than ever.

Part of the dilemma is the difference between a public library system and the commercial world. Many of the products and services targeted for children as young as 9 — such as diet books, makeup and popular music — may not be appropriate for these ages. But with advertising and movies, computer games and television programs making them visible and attractive, children want them. So, if there is the demand, does that mean the children's section public library should provide this kind of information for these library users? What exactly is our goal — to provide a thoughtful but possibly old-fashioned standard or to follow popular trends?

This is a touchy issue for many of us, as we shy away from anything that could look like censorship, yet strive at

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Calendar

Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis. Mail submissions to Pam Middings, 1516 Oak St., Alameda, CA 94501; e-mail them to pmiddings@ccitimes.com or fax them to 510-748-1680. Call 510-748-1683 if you have questions.

Children

■ Lawrence Hall of Science, 1 Centennial Drive, Berkeley, presents residential camps: "Coastal Camp in the Santa Cruz Mountains" session two, for ages 9-12, **July 10-14**. — "Yosemite Park Backpacking Science Camp" session one, for ages 10-14, July 1-24; session two, for ages 11-16, July 30-Aug. 4. Details: www.lawrence-hallscience.org and 510-642-5143.

■ Shakespeare Camps for youth ages 7-18 are weekdays 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at John Hinkel Park, 41 Somerset Ave., Berkeley. Aftercare available until 5:30 p.m. Schedule: teen camp July 11-22, **July 25-Aug. 5, Aug. 8-19**. Cost: \$395, \$520 with aftercare. To enroll: call 800-978-PLAY, or download forms at www.sfshakes.org and fax to 415-865-4433.

■ Family Film Sunday Series presents film "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" 11 a.m. **July 17** at Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. Original 1971 version of Roald Dahl's book "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" is a wry, amusing musical about a world famous candy maker who hides five golden tickets in candy bars for five lucky children. Star: Gene Wilder as Willy Wonka. Tickets: \$5 at door. Details: www.juliamorgan.org.

■ Habitat Children's Museum, 2065 Kittredge St., Berkeley, presents: Free admission day of literacy events **July 9**: alphabet beads, magnets, bilingual story-telling; press, mold, draw, stamp or sculpt letters all day in art studio. Refreshments provided. — Car Seat Check 10 a.m.-12 p.m. **July 23**: Berkeley Police Department will check installation on your child's car seat at University Garage, Addison at Oxford Streets. Details: www.habitot.org or 510-647-1111.

■ Stage Door Conservatory presents summer musical theater classes for youths with start dates through **Aug. 1** at Epworth Community Methodist Church, 1953 Hopkins St., North Berkeley. Details: www.stagedoorconservatory.org or 510-521-6250.

■ Black Repertory Group Youth De-

partment's Summer Day Camp is through August for this summer's production of "The Wiz" at 3201 Adeline St., Berkeley. Details: 510-652-2102 or www.blackrepertorygroup.com.

■ Boy Scout meetings — All boys in grades 6-12 are invited to join Troop 125 at meetings from 5-6:30 p.m. on Mondays at Downer Elementary School Cafeteria, 1777 Sanford Ave., San Pablo. Sponsored by the Lion's Club. Details: Brian at 510-231-0403.

■ Check out books from Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center Library, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. Spend quality time with your kids; meet with children's librarian, research your Jewish roots or check out best sellers. Hours: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday - Thursday; 8:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Details: 510-848-0237.

■ Contra Costa Civic Theatre, 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito, offers theater classes and seminars for children, youth and adults throughout the year including summer camps, stage craft seminars, after-school programs and theater techniques and improvisation. All classes and seminars are taught by professionals. Details: 510-524-9132 or visit www.cct.org.

■ El Cerrito offers special programs for children from 2 months to 3½ years of age designed to offer parents an opportunity to leave their pre-school children in a safe atmosphere under qualified supervision. Program meets 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Monday-Thursday at 7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito. Registration is continuous as long as space is available. Details: 510-215-4371.

Community

■ Recreational Equipment Inc. 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, presents: Free Hands-on Bicycle Clinic 10-11:30 a.m. **July 3, 17**, — Foot-Care for Any Sport: Boot Fit, Blisters & More 7 p.m. **July 5**, — Kayaking 101 7 p.m. **July 6**.

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— Hands-on Bike Maintenance Class 8 a.m.-2 p.m. **July 10**, — Road Cycling for Women 7 p.m. **July 12**, — Climbing Mt. Shasta: Tips for First-time Climbers: 7 p.m. **July 13**, — Fast-Pack 101: An Inspirational Evening with Golite Founder Demetri "Coup" Coupouras 7 p.m. **July 19**, — GPS 101 7 p.m. **July 26**, — Adventure Racing Basics with World Class Athlete Robyn Benincasa 7 p.m. **July 27**. Details: 510-527-4140.

■ Tibetan Nyingma Institute presents Abbe Blum speaking on "Challenging the Limits of Self-Knowledge" 6 p.m. **July 3** at 1815 Highland Place, Berkeley. Free. Coming up: Lama Amdo on "Relaxing Judgment about the Self" on **July 10**; Robin Caton on "A Pilgrimage to Tibet" **July 17**; — Lama Palzang and Pema Gellek on "Compassion as Forgiveness" 6 p.m. **July 24**; — Lama Amdo on "Meditation and the Four Noble Truths" 6 p.m. **July 31**; — Lama Palzang and Pema Gellek on "Developing the Wish for Freedom" 6 p.m. **Aug. 7**. Details: 510-843-6812.

■ City of Albany Recreation Department presents a 4th of July celebration 11 a.m.-4 p.m. **July 4** in Memorial Park, 1331 Portland Ave., Albany. Free. Uncle Jazz, John Gates Trio, pet show, arts & crafts, pony rides, jump house, family games, food. Details: 510-524-9283, www.albanyca.org.

■ City of Albany's 4th of July Dog Jog Fun Run is 8:30 a.m. **July 4** at Memorial Park, 1331 Portland Ave., Albany. Registration is 7:30 a.m. One and two mile run/walk options for dogs and their owners. Cost: \$10. Details: 510-524-9283, www.albanyca.org.

■ Pat Ryan's Celtic Junket celebrates 4th of July 2-4 p.m. **July 4** at Berkeley Marina, 160 University Ave., Berkeley. Lively Celtic acoustic music by Pat's trio. Free. Details: 510-548-5335.

■ North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave., presents the following free events: Birthday party 1:15 p.m. **July 6**, Joy Perrin, One Woman Band, plays classical and pop music from the 20th century. — **July 8**: Allen Stross, photographer, discusses use of digital cameras at 1 p.m. — **July 11**: Dr. Loron McGillis gives a talk about strokes at 10:30 a.m.; Salsa Exercise class begins with instructor Carolyn Ozonsi at 11 a.m. — **July 12**: Lucci Ellis shows a video,

leads a discussion about Bioethics of Cloning at 1 p.m. — **July 18**: Parkinson's Support Group meets at 10 a.m. — **July 19**: Lucci Ellis presents video and discussion "A Fat Nation in a Thin World" at 1 p.m. — **July 26**: Matt Ryan gives presentation about vacationing in Prague, Budapest and Krakow at 1:15 p.m. Details: 510-961-5190.

■ City of Berkeley Creeks Task Force meetings are held 7:30-9 p.m. at North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave. Schedule is as follows: **July 11**, **Aug. 1, 15**, **Sept. 12, 19**; Oct. 3, 17, Nov. 7, 21; Dec. 5. Details: www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/planning/lan-duse/Creeks/default.html.

■ Fix Our Ferals presents "Fund Our Ferals" fundraiser 4-7 p.m. **July 16** at Unitarian Universalist Church of Kensington, #1 Lawson Road, Kensington. Silent auction, food, wine. \$35 admission includes refreshments. Details: www.fixourferals.org.

■ Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society's 8th annual Bay to Barkers Dog Walk and Festival is 10 a.m.-2 p.m. **July 17** at

Cesar Chavez Park, Berkeley. Spinner Way, Gentle 1.3-mile stroll, fun activities for children, strations and exhibits. Proceeds abandoned dogs and cats shelter. Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society Cost: \$25-\$30; participants are asked to gather as many pledges as possible. Great prizes available. Details: 7735x13.org or www.berkeleyhumane.org.

■ Ecology Center's Berkeley Markets are at three locations and times: Tuesday's Market is 2-7 p.m. Derby Street at Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. — North Shattuck farmstand is 3-7 p.m. Thursday at Shattuck at Rose Street. It features organically grown produce. — Saturday market is 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at Cypress Park, Center Street & Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. All markets open

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See CALENDAR, Page

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Calendar

PAGE A6

rain or shine. Details: 510-548-9696 or www.ecologycenter.org. Events: Peach tastings July 23.

Elephant Gray Panthers present ride coordinator Harry Hoffman to the committee for an independent speaking on "How do independent affect the Political Landscape?" at July 20 at 1403 Addison St., Berkeley. She will also discuss political issues. A light vegetarian supper. Details: 510-548-9696.

American Red Cross holds mobile drives at the following times: 10 a.m. through 4 p.m. July 19 at UCB Physical Activity Center, 846 Masonic Ave., Albany. Low Vision Support Group is at 11 a.m.-12 p.m. on last Monday of each month. Free. — Massage Therapy is Tuesdays at 2:30-5 p.m. and Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Cost: \$10 per 15 minute session. Smoking Cessation Group, Fridays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., sliding scale \$3-\$10 per week.

— Senior Issues Support Group, Thursdays 11 a.m.-12 p.m., \$15. — World Affairs/Current Events discussion group for people 60 years and older meets Mondays 10:15-11:45 a.m. Details/registration: 510-524-9122.

— **Berkeley City Club** and Landmark Heritage Foundation are dedicated to preservation and promotion of legacy of Julia Morgan. Take a free docent-led tour of Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., on fourth Sunday of each month except December, 1-4 p.m. Free, with donations welcome. For reservations/details: 510 848-7800 or 510-883-9710.

Y Ultimate Drive for the Susan G. Breast Cancer Foundation is 10 a.m. through October at Weatherly, 750 Potter St., Berkeley. Test fleet vehicle and BMW will donate every mile driven to Foundation.

877-4-A-DRIVE.

Area Community Services pre-

special lunch days 12-1 p.m. at locations in Alameda County.

Donation \$2.25. Details/reservations: 510-986-8900 or www.bayareacs.org.

■ **World Affairs/Current Events** group for people 60+ years resumes 10:15-11:45 a.m. Mondays at Albany Senior Center, 846 Masonic Ave., Albany, \$2.50 per session. Refreshments. Details: call 510-524-9122.

■ **Hopalong Animal Rescue** — Dog and puppy temporary foster homes are urgently needed. Local animal shelters are overcrowded and the situation is desperate. Please call Hopalong Animal Rescue at 510-267-1915 or go to www.hopalong.org.

■ **Programs at the Albany Senior Center**, 846 Masonic Ave., Albany: Low Vision Support Group is at 11 a.m.-12 p.m. on last Monday of each month. Free. — Massage Therapy is Tuesdays at 2:30-5 p.m. and Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Cost: \$10 per 15 minute session. Smoking Cessation Group, Fridays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., sliding scale \$3-\$10 per week.

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■ **Berkeley Toys for Tots** program is under way; to donate toys to underprivileged children call Berkeley Police Captain Bill Pittman at 510-981-5760.

■ **Cars needed** — Boys and Girls Clubs throughout California are running car campaigns to help support their programs. If you would like to donate your automobile, the Club can be contacted at 800-246-0493. Some restrictions apply.

■ **The Turnabout Shop**, 1005 San Pablo Ave. in El Cerrito: all staff time and merchandise to the shop is donated, and proceeds support healthcare needs in local communities. Thrift shop is open Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Donations of clothing and household items are welcome. Details: 510-525-7844.

■ **Berkeley Neighborhood Computers**, a non-profit organization, provides high-value and high-demand computer technology training for disadvantaged and at-risk individuals. Organization seeks computers and networking equipment to be used for training purposes. All donations are tax deductible. Details: 510-845-1226 or e-mail bnc@netvalue.net.

Exhibits

■ **ACCI Gallery**, 1655 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, presents its June Garden Show featuring works in celebration of Summer by ACCI Gallery Members through July 1. — 2005 New Member Show is July 15-Aug. 12, with newest artists and their

exciting work. Opening reception with artists 6-8 p.m. July 13. Details: 510-843-2527 or www.accigallery.com.

■ **Open Studio, Arts & Crafts Show** by El Cerrito photographer Heidi Rand is 10 a.m.-5 p.m. July 2-3, 9-10 at 5810 Barrett Ave., El Cerrito. Nature photography display, including unique crafts on wood, fabric, tile, more. Details: heidiran@rao.com or www.GardenDe-lightsArts.com.

■ **Judah L. Magnes Museum**, 2911 Russell St., Berkeley, presents: "Acting Out: Claude Cahun and Marcel Moore" through July 31 at Reutlinger Gallery; "Revisions: Naomi Kremer, Shitell" through July 31. — "The People and the Book: Paintings and Rare Books from the Museum's Collection" through July 3 in Second Floor Gallery. Free. Details: 510-549-6950 or www.magnes.org.

■ **UC Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive**, 2625 Durant Ave., #2250, Berkeley, presents: First Impressions: Free First Thursdays 5:30 p.m. July 7 in Theater Gallery. Guided tour of "Blind at the Museum." — Free Screening of "The Animal Kingdom" 5:30 p.m. July 7 in PFA Theater; "Blind At The Museum" Gallery Talk with John Dugdale, Beth Dungan 3 p.m. July 10 at Theater Gallery; Artist's Talk Matrix 217: Haim Steinbach July 10-Sept. 4; "Acting Out: Claude Cahun and Marcel Moore" through July 24; "Narrative Moral Models in Chinese and Japanese Painting" through July 24; Matrix 217: Haim Steinbach July 10-Sept. 4; "Acting Out: Claude Cahun and Marcel Moore" through Aug. 7; Eureka Fellowship 2002-2004 through Aug. 14. Details: 510-843-2527 or www.accigallery.com.

■ **Innersport**'s spring art show runs until August at 1240 Addison St. #102, Berkeley. Show features work by Scott Courtenay-Smith, Sally Kiehn and Nita Moreno. Details: www.innersport.com.

■ **Black Repertory Group**, 3201 Adel-

line St., Berkeley, presents: Night Owl Comedy 8 p.m. on 3rd Saturdays monthly. Cost: \$6-\$10. — Free Lunch Program is through Aug. 4. Details: 510-652-2120 or www.blackrepertorygroup.com.

■ **Albany Arts Committee** presents exhibit "From Life," featuring plein air and figurative paintings of Iris Sabre through Sept. 2 at Foyer Gallery, Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave., Albany. Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m., 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Saturdays. Details: 510-524-1577.

■ **Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive**, 2625 Durant Ave., Berkeley, offers the following exhibitions: — "Turning Corners," a collection of radical/conformist artists, and "Figurations," a changing variety of perspectives on the human form, through Jan. 22, 2006. — Details: 510-642-0808.

Film/dance/stage

■ **Ashkenaz Music & Dance**

Community Center, 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, presents: African Tribal Quintet African Showboyz

9:30 p.m. July 1. \$11-\$13. — Reggae Angels concert 9:30 p.m. July 2. \$11-\$13. — Kids' show "Ten*G*Bob" 3 p.m. July 3. \$4-\$6.

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Pool

FROM PAGE A8

think we are one of the top pools, and I would like to stay that way."

Since its renovations, the facility has improved dramatically, said El Cerrito recreation director Monica Kortz.

The old facility failed to meet building codes, and the lights didn't work.

"The pool was dilapidated; it was a 39-year-old facility with not many attractions," Kortz said. "The tiles were falling off the wall."

Now, on hot days, the pool has to turn away people or exceed its capacity, Kortz said, something that never happened before the renovations. The facility consists of an activity pool with a capacity of 158 and a competition pool with a capacity of 316.

Carolyne Dupins, a member of the Changing Lives Christian Ministry in Richmond, was among 30 people from the church who visited the pool recently.

She was impressed by the way the pool looked following its renovations. She likes that people can bring in food and barbecue on the north lawn.

While she and a contingent of parents sat on some metal bleachers, children and a few parents splashed around in the recreation pool about 15 feet in front of them.

Occasionally, a child would exit the pool to run up the stairs of the popular waterslide. Others stood at a plastic mushroom, which would occasionally shower water on them.

Meanwhile, adults and older children swam laps or dove off one of several diving boards in the lap swim pool on the far side of the bleachers.

"It caters to all ages," said Dupins.

"It's their favorite pool in the area," said Woods, of her daughter and friend. "They love the

POOL INFO

Effective today, residents will see most fees increase by 3 percent at the El Cerrito Swim Center. For everyone, drop-in swimming at the recreation pool or lap swimming at the competition pool will cost between \$3 and \$6.

For El Cerrito residents wanting an unlimited monthly lap-swim pass, they will pay \$103, or \$43 for a 10-swim pass. For adults who want to swim in the recreation pool, it will cost \$64 for an unlimited monthly pass; for children it will be \$38. Non-residents pay more.

For more information about the El Cerrito Swim Center, call 510-559-7000 or go online at www.el-cerrito.org.

slide. I love the grassy area. It's kind of unusual for a pool area. It's a very nice facility; the lifeguards are very attentive."

The staff also likes it, said Rebecca Parsa, a 19-year-old San Diego State University student who now works there during the summer.

Parsa started taking lessons at the pool when she was 8 years old, and began volunteering there when she was 13.

She was a junior lifeguard until about three years ago, when she was promoted to senior guard. She now manages lessons and handles complaints, she said. She also joined the El Cerrito Gators swim team.

Working there is like being part of a family, she said.

Junior lifeguard and El Cerrito High School sophomore Ryan Trac said he spends much of his summer there.

"You get to swim and hang out with your friends, have a fun time," Trac said. "Most of the lifeguards here are my friends. I enjoy working with them."

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

fore the trees came in."

Melanie Mintz, El Cerrito's environmental analyst, said the city will add 301 shrubs and 104 trees to the Baxter Creek restoration site north of the Ohlone Greenway.

But parks commissioner Rosemary Loubal became alarmed last week after she said she

learned during the greenway tour that the city was going to remove all non-native trees, from Wall to Conlon avenues on the north end of the trail. It's an area she's calling "Arroyo Seco."

She believed that the rejection of the \$204,000 grant was a "stay of execution" for the trees.

Budget

FROM PAGE A8

9.7 percent, said Ruth Vedovelli, associate superintendent of business services, though that is about 5 percent lower than the previous estimate of 14 percent.

Things could improve further by fall, she said.

Federal dollars left over from this school year cannot be counted as revenue until the books close June 30, said Barbara Snaith, senior director of fiscal services. After the balance is calculated in September, district administrators will have a truer picture of the district's re-

"I don't want to throw cold water on the warm fuzzies. This budget is balanced on one-time money."

— Gloria Johnston, West Contra Costa schools superintendent

sources.

For instance, in June 2004, the board adopted a budget of \$246 million in spending based on \$248 million in revenues. By the first interim budget update

in December, expected income had grown to about \$270 million from the addition of rolled-over balances in federal programs and parcel tax collections.

Ramsey commended Superintendent Gloria Johnston, who leaves in August, for maintaining a balanced budget during the economic turmoil of the past few years.

"It's got to be a wonderful feeling. That monster is off your back," Ramsey said. "We're not dealing with a fiscal crisis."

Johnston replied that the district still faces budgetary challenges in the years to come.

"I don't want to throw cold water on the warm fuzzies," Johnston said. "This budget is

balanced on one-time money. Nearly \$3 million can be taken money earned from specific programs that now allows districts to other purposes.

In addition, the district received permission from trustee Fred Stewart to \$2 million payment is debt service fund, and used to pay off loans the state bailout from bankruptcy.

"We can't keep going the well for one-time money," Johnston said.

Shirley Dang covers education. She can be reached at 2798 or sdang@cctimes.com.

Tax

FROM PAGE A8

because of potential salary and benefits increases.

"I feel like the time to tell people you have a problem is as soon as possible, not when there's an emergency," she said.

A discussion about the tax will continue at a July 12 meeting, with a final decision needed by Aug. 8, the deadline for placing measures on the November ballot.

Walden is asking the board to submit a ballot measure that would

either increase a parcel tax residents approved in 1987 or approve a new tax. To raise \$1 million a year, the district would need to raise the base 1987 tax from \$120.42 to about \$321, Walden said.

Board member Nadine Ghammache praised the tax effort while board member David Farrell and board president Michael Barnes offered more qualified support.

Vice Chair Charlie Blanchard said the issue needed more discussion and suggested the board consider a November '06 ballot measure.

"There's no time for a real se-

Fire destroys theater company props

BERKELEY — A three-alarm fire Wednesday evening destroyed props and stage equipment stored in a warehouse, Berkeley fire officials said.

The blaze, in the 1200 block of 5th Street, broke out about 7:30 p.m. and caused the roof and part of a wall to collapse on the items, part of the Berkeley Repertory Theater's collection. The fire did not spread to nearby businesses, Assistant Chief Lucky Thomas said.

Two firefighters suffered mi-

nor burns while battling the fire. The blaze sent columns of thick black smoke extending into portions of West County.

Thomas said a major power line was severed, and outages occurred in the city. It was unknown late Wednesday how many power customers were affected.

It took nearly two hours to extinguish hot spots. The estimated amount of damage was unavailable Wednesday. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

— Amber Ellis

Path

FROM PAGE A8

"It's the first or second most heavily used community resource," Price said. "That's because of the trees; that's the key to getting people out to use the facility. It was underutilized be-

fore the trees came in."

Melanie Mintz, El Cerrito's environmental analyst, said the city will add 301 shrubs and 104 trees to the Baxter Creek restoration site north of the Ohlone Greenway.

But parks commissioner Rosemary Loubal became alarmed last week after she said she

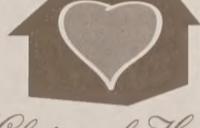
learned during the greenway tour that the city was going to remove all non-native trees, from Wall to Conlon avenues on the north end of the trail. It's an area she's calling "Arroyo Seco."

She believed that the rejection of the \$204,000 grant was a "stay of execution" for the trees.

As for the rest of the project,

"at least we can fix the creek," said Loubal. "The pathway can wait."

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.



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ALAMEDA MUSEUM



HARBOR BAY REALTY

HISTORIC BUILDER JOSEPH LEONARD built his brown-shingle masterpiece at the foot of Union Street in Alameda. Leonard began construction in late 1895 and the family moved in just before Christmas in 1896. Notice the home's third story in the vintage photo, inset. When workers removed the third story in the 1960s, they discovered part of the space served to store water for the home.

A master's piece: A look at builder Joseph Leonard and his Alameda home

BY DENNIS EVANSKY
SECTION EDITOR

Joseph Argyle Leonard, one of Bay Area's most prolific late-19th century builders, arrived in California in 1883 "with nothing but a hammer and a saw," that's what his 1929 obituary could have us believe. Leonard had arrived with just two essential tools of his trade, a solid background in his chosen profession to the tune of \$1,000. He could claim business and architectural experience he had sharpened in New York City.

After he studied in the east, he returned to his native Texas and by 1875 he had established himself solidly enough to marry Annie Jeffries. He left his mark in both Dallas and Fort Worth before coming west.

Annie bore him twin daughters, Mattie and Mary, and a son George. A third daughter was born in Tombstone, Arizona. John and Annie whimsically named her Arizona (and nicknamed her Zona) for her birth state.

The Leonards' 1883 arrival in San Francisco could not have been more timely. Joseph found himself in the midst of a Bay Area building boom. He took up his proverbial hammer and saw and went to work. He first established himself as a building contractor in San Francisco before moving to across the bay to Alameda in 1887.

The Leonards arrived "just as the town was beginning its rapid growth as a commuter suburb," says Alameda historian Woody Minor in Leonardville Heritage Area.

According to Minor, Leonard got his start in Alameda as a partner in the real estate firm of A.H. Todd

See LEONARD, Page B2

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Real Estate Spotlight:

Amenities abound in Oakland home



THIS HOME AT 73 BEECHWOOD DRIVE in Oakland features a wonderful two-story entry hall. The architectural detailing includes crown molding, clerestory windows and wainscoting. A high boxed-beamed ceiling embraces the home's Great Room with its raised hearth, granite fireplace and maple built-ins. The gourmet kitchen includes granite backsplashes, instant hot water, a Sub-Zero refrigerator, three sinks and a center island with an eating bar. Amenities here include a Dacor gas cooktop, Thermador convection ovens, a walk-in pantry and maple floors. A spiral wrought-iron staircase leads from the home's spacious terrace to the back yard. The insulated wine cellar has a humidifier and slate flooring. Designer lighting, decorative sconces and chandeliers help brighten this fine home. The master bedroom is warmed by a marble fireplace with a raised hearth. Built-in cherry bookcases and coffered ceilings turn this space into a cozy retreat. The master bath has a peaked ceiling, a marble-topped vanity with dual sinks and a large, and a two-headed shower with Mr. Steam system. This room's six-foot Jacuzzi tub is set into a bay window. The large walk-in closet has built-ins and cedar floor strips. The lush, flower-filled front yard, designed by landscaper Lawrence Fleury, showcases a fragrant rose garden and varied trees such as dogwood, birch, Japanese maple and gorgeous blooms like hydrangeas, camellia and rhododendrons., ensuring that every season has its own special beauty.

Price: \$2,695,000.

Agent: Jerilynn Babington, Coldwell Banker Previews International, 510-547-1615 or 510-421-9000.

Alameda's Bay Shore

From an 1888 Alameda Daily Argus map

- Future site of Leonardville
- Future site of Leonard Mansion
- Future site of Encinal Yacht Club



THOSE WERE THE DAYS: Joseph Leonard and his wife, Annie, arrived in Alameda in 1887, just when the city was undergoing a transformation from village to suburb. A year later, the newspaper The Argus published a map of Alameda. Part of this map shows San Francisco Bay at the foot of Union and Grand streets, left. The foot of Union Street where Joseph and Annie built their home in 1896 is a pasturage along San Francisco Bay. Joseph developed Leonardville on nearby fields and pastures. He was an avid yachtsman, who owned two yachts. One he named Little Annie, for his wife, the other El Sueño. He served the Encinal Yacht Club as commodore and designed the clubhouse on a pier off Grand Street, right.

Leonard

FROM PAGE B1

& Co. When Todd retired, Leonard bought the firm. The company was a full-service real estate company. It "collected rents, managed property, gave out loans and sold insurance," Minor says.

Leonard also began building homes for a small number of his clients. He expanded his full-service approach to the business. He offered what he called a "package" approach.

In December 1889, Minor says he laid the foundation for the first of the new Leonardville houses at the southwest corner of Lafayette Street and San Antonio Avenue. The Alameda newspaper The Daily Argus called this home the "pioneer of some 20 others."

In 1890, Leonard expanded his scope and published an illustrated brochure, *A Home in Alameda*. The number of copies he printed—20,000—reflects the faith he had in himself and his business.

That same year, Leonard built a Queen Anne-style home for himself and his family at 1025 Union St. He and Annie moved in with the children in 1890. The home, that cost Leonard \$7,000 to build was demolished in 1930.

He busied himself and his company in creating the residential district we know today as Leonardville. From 1889 to 1896, he and his company built 66 homes around Chestnut Station.

Leonard reserved several choice lots for himself at the foot of Union Street. In 1892, he built a tank house, laid out gardens and set up a boatyard here.

He built his two yachts here, the Little Anne—named for his wife, of course—in 1891 and El Sueño in 1895.

After his second yacht was complete, Leonard began construction on what Minor calls "Leonardville's largest and costliest house—as well as its last."

Leonard certainly made a statement to all who saw the home, whether on land or from the bay. The home stood near—and was very visible from—the Encinal Yacht Club.

At the time the club stood on a pier in the bay off Grand Street. Leonard served the club as commodore and, of course, he designed and built the handsome club house.

The home stands firmly in two eras. Its towers and witches' caps stem from the Victorian era, but the

See LEONARD, Page B3



A FANCIFUL DOOR HANDLE, left, welcomes guests to 891 Union St. in Alameda. The sweeping staircase, right, with its stained-glass window, draws eye upward from homes large, Victorians, foyer. Architect-builder Joseph A. Leonard spared no expense on his residence. The home cost \$20,000 to build in 1896, a time when one could a home for as little as \$1,900.

A look at credit and your mortgage

Part One

If you're a first-time home buyer, be aware that your credit history plays a large part in what kind of home you'll be able to afford. If you're refinancing your current property, also be aware that your credit will speak loudly to your lender about the kind of loan and interest rate you'll qualify for.

Now that I have your attention, let's take a closer look at how it works—for and against you. We'll tackle credit scoring now and look at what you can do about your scores in Part Two.

Credit scoring is a sophisticated mathematical model applied to your credit behavior. It gives a lender a pretty accurate gauge of how big a risk you represent.

Lenders, including banks, credit unions and investors, seek a profit on the money they lend you but don't handle risk easily, especially if your credit history shows slow or no-pay occurrences.

A credit score considers your credit history, income, outstanding debt and debt utilization over the years, access to credit, and other indicators of your financial behavior to determine how likely you are to pay your bills on time, or if at all.

They break down your FICO score as follows:

35 percent of your score: Payment History

The factor that has the biggest impact on your score is whether you've paid past credit accounts on time. On the other hand, a generally good credit picture can outweigh a few late payments, and late payments will continue to have less impact over time. The exception: late payments on your monthly mortgage; miss paying the others but never your mortgage.

30 percent: Amounts Owed

Having numerous credit accounts and owing money doesn't necessarily mean you're a high-risk borrower, however owing a lot of money on numerous accounts can be a red flag that you are financially overextended and more likely to make some payments late or not at all.

15 percent: Length of Credit History

A longer credit history will typically increase your FICO score. It shows that you can responsibly manage your available credit over time.

10 percent: New Credit

This is very recent history, based on your efforts to obtain loans or credit lines in the past few months.

10 percent: Types of Credit In Use

This represents the mix of credit you hold, including installment loans (like car or student loans), leases, mortgages, credit cards, etc. While a healthy mix will improve your score, it is not necessary to have one of each, and it is not a good idea to open credit accounts you don't intend to use.



KEN BALL
Mortgage Musings

Where these credit scores come from are credit-reporting agencies. They collect information about our payment habits from retailers, finance companies and banks; they sell the data as credit reports to lenders and creditors.

The lender decides whether to approve your loan application based on this report.

Here are the three major credit agencies and contact information:

- Equifax
www.equifax.com
800-685-1111
- Experian
www.experian.com
888-397-3742
- Trans Union
www.transunion.com
800-888-4213

Each has a Web site with varying degrees of information and detail: Experian has a useful summary

See BALL, Page B3

Homeowner, renter assistance program starts today

FRANCHISE TAX BOARD
The Homeowner and Renter Assistance Program provides a once-a-year payment from the state to qualified homeowners and renters based on property taxes directly paid by homeowners and indirectly paid by renters. For the 2005 claim year, eligible homeowners can receive a payment of up to \$472.50, while renters can receive up to \$347.50.

The FTB began mailing claim booklets in mid-June to prior year recipients. Eligible individuals can also get the claim form from the FTB's Web site at www.ftb.ca.gov.

The FTB runs the program from July 1 through Oct. 15, although claims can be filed as late as June 30, 2006. The FTB advises claimants to file by Oct. 15 to avoid delays in payment processing.

To qualify, homeowners must have owned and lived in their home at the end of 2004, have a household income of \$39,699 or less, or gross income of \$72,179 or less (see instructions for details), and be a U.S. citizen, designated alien, or qualified alien when the claim is filed. Renters must pay \$50 or more in rent per month and meet the above income limits and residency rules. Claimants must have

This program provides financial assistance to senior citizens, blind, and disabled Californians living on a fixed income. We want to make sure all those who qualify and receive their assistance payments.

Franchise Tax Board Chair Steve

been blind, disabled, or at least 62 years old on December 31, 2004.

Interested persons can call 800-868-4171. The phone line features an automated service where claimants can order forms, hear answers to questions, and check on the status of their claim.

For free help, the FTB locations and hours for the homeowner assistance program on site. To locate the nearest site, visit the FTB's Web site, your local Senior Citizens Information and Referral Service, or your state legislator's office.

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SEPH ARYGE LEONARD spared no expense when he built his family home at 891 Union St. in Alameda. He set this home on three choice lots along San Francisco Bay. The home's foyer, left, invites a walk into the formal living room, left, an excellent starting point for entertaining guests. The home also has a large ballroom where — it is said — Caruso and Janis Joplin once sang.

leonard

ON PAGE B2

ne's brown shingles bespeak dawn of a new century and modern styles. Queen Victoria's reign and the era that bore her name came to an end with death in 1901. By then the Leopards had moved on. In December 1900 Leonard sold the house to his friend and fellow yachtsman George W. Emmons, who was the first to subdivide the property. He created Palmera Court in one of Alameda's early landfill projects.

"When the top floor was removed, " says Minor, "This was likely done as a compromise."

There were plans afoot to "tear down that old home at the end of Union Street" as just one more of

The home's current owners, Cary and Johanne Dector have cherished their time here. "We have treasured the opportunity to serve as caretakers for this wonderful house," said Cary as he recounted stories of the home's past owners.

These include the aforementioned George Emmons, who was the first to subdivide the property. He created Palmera Court in one of Alameda's early landfill projects.

Johanne recalled the 1960s when the top floor was removed. "This was likely done as a compromise," she said.

There were plans afoot to "tear down that old home at the end of Union Street" as just one more of

Alameda's Victorian-era white elephants, she remembers.

Cary related the story about the rains coming just when workers had exposed the top floor. In a panic the owner rushed to cover the floor so water wouldn't seep into the rest of the house.

They had to call in the Alameda Fire Department to help place the tarps. This led to one of our urban legends: The home at 891 Union St. had once burned.

"The home never burned," Cary said. "But once, I had to go out into the street and correct a tour guide who was explaining to a group of people that the home had burned."

Urban legends die hard.



Queen Victoria's reign and the era that bore her name came to an end with her death in 1901. By then the Leopards had moved on. In December 1900 Leonard sold the house to his friend and fellow yachtsman George W. Emmons.

VITAL STATISTICS

What: An Alameda Gold Coast jewel: Architect and builder Joseph Leonard's mansion at 891 Union St.

Size: A 7,870 square-foot home set on a 14,964 square-foot lot.

Bedrooms: Four

Bathrooms: Six full

Features: This historically significant home is perfect for entertaining. The home has a large ballroom that has seen the likes of Caruso and Janis Joplin. The magnificent Victorian-era is on the lagoon in Alameda's Gold Coast. The historic Leonard Mansion boasts stately architecture and sumptuous ornamentation. The home has a grand entryway that leads to spacious rooms. It has a sunny, updated kitchen and breakfast room, a huge ballroom with a bar and a second kitchen and many "plus" rooms. The home has its own private dock on lovely grounds.

Listing agent: Maureen Shandobil, Harbor Bay Realty, 510-814-4880.

aking a look around the East Bay real estate community

News and information for and about the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

R THE PUBLIC

Realtor.com is the official website of the National Association of Realtors. Ranked as the No. 1 home-sale site, it offers potential homebuyers more than 2.1 million RealListed homes for sale as well as most brokers and agents to contact. The site also provides home buyers with the Internet's largest marketplace to reach more than 4.98 million consumers per month.

Alameda
The public is always welcome at Inforum Meeting. The Alameda Association of Realtors sponsors Inforum. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month. The focus is an invited speaker and the discussion of important topics. The Inforum helps buyers stay informed about the market, the community and the economy. Agents bring information on new listings for presentation. For more information contact Kristin Mahan of AAR at 510-523-7229.

Sticks Told
"Our Houses", from unusual ar-

chitecture to Victorian classics, the Alameda Museum provides slide lectures narrated by Bay area authors. The next lecture, "History and Commerce on the Island" is 7 p.m., Thursday, July 28. The lecturer is author and historian Woody Minor. A book signing will follow the show. Minor will autograph copies of the new edition of his Historic Commercial Buildings of Alameda. Ginger Schuler of Harbor Bay Realty is underwriting the event. For tickets call 510-748-0796 or visit alamedamuseum.org.

Free Classes

Preserve Assets. Is the capital gain tax preventing you from selling an investment property? Learn about the 1031 Exchange process. Attend "Preserve Your Assets" 6 to 8:30 p.m., Thursday, July 14. Whitney Graham, of NCS Exchange Professionals is the instructor. The free seminar is held in Alameda. Make a reservation with presenters from "Your Home Team Advantage" (a group of professionals from mortgage, title and Gallagher & Lindsey Realtors) Make a reservation by visiting GallagherAndLindsey.com or calling 510-865-4192 ext. 300.

Nominations

Nominate a real estate profes-

sional (Realtor, loan officer or title rep) that goes above and beyond. I want to hear about those individuals or companies that give back to the community. See my contact information below. Give me the basic details and I'll do the rest.

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e-PRO

The National Association of Realtors offers e-PRO, a real estate industry technology certification program for real estate professionals. The e-PRO course was designed by Realtors for Realtors. The course is presented entirely online and certifies real estate agents and brokers as Internet Professionals. Realtors are able to complete their studies at their own pace. If you are interested in learning more visit

www.eProNAR.com.

■ Attend a free Introduction to e-Pro workshop, 9 to 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, July 14. The Alameda Association of Realtors sponsors the class. A discount is offered for the NAR e-Pro class for those attending this workshop. Call AAR for more information at 510-523-7229.

JOIN REALISTS

Become a Realist by joining ARPB. This year's membership drive offers to waive local dues for new members. ARPB is a chapter of the largest minority trade organization in America. Contact Chairperson Monique Washington at

Monique@balancemortgage.com.

TECH FORUM

The Training Department of the Bay East Association of Realtors presents a Technology Forum, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Friday, July 15, at the association. Learn how to utilize existing technologies to the best advantage. Members are encouraged to bring computer hardware/software questions. Learn more at www.bayeast.org.

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Real Estate Focus:

Mediterranean-style home in Oakland's Upper Rockridge district



THE GRACIOUS ORIGINAL MEDITERRANEAN home at 5910 Margarido Drive in the Claremont Pines section of Upper Rockridge in Oakland. Built in 1947, the house was saved from the Oakland fire through the determined action of the homeowner and retired Oakland Battalion Chief Bernard Kelly, who hosed down the roof. Underground utilities mean clear views and there are charming street lamps. The home retains its original elegance and features a distinctive Spanish-tile roof. On the main floor, there are three bedrooms and two baths, as well as kitchen, living room with gas fireplace and formal dining room. The living room has an attractive view of Mt. Tamalpais and the Bay. The dining room's French doors open out to an professionally landscaped backyard with beautiful plantings and private patios plus a generous potting shed. Downstairs has a large room and bath for au pair, office, or bedroom, with a separate entrance. There is also a two-car garage with additional storage space. Close to Rockridge shopping and BART.

Price: \$865,000

Listing agents: MillsteinAssociates, Lorraine Osmundson, 510-526-4566, and Linda Lipscomb, 510-295-8168. See www.MillsteinAssociates.com.

Buyers should not disturb seller without an agent

■ What is proper home buying etiquette?

By NMAN NEWS

Recently, a home seller who valued her privacy was unpleasantly surprised when she found a prospective home buyer in her backyard. The buyer was not accompanied by a real estate agent. The seller was very upset. She had listed her home for sale with a real estate agent because she didn't want to interact directly with prospective buyers.

Even after the "Do Not Disturb Occupant" sign went up, some buyers attempted to gain access to the house without an appointment. The seller kept track of these people and vowed not to sell to any of them.

HOUSE HUNTING TIP: It's natural to be excited when you hear about a new listing. But, showing up at the front door unannounced is usually not the way to win a seller's heart. If the house is shown by appointment only, make sure that your agent calls the seller in advance. Adhering to reasonable home buying etiquette will go a long

way to convince the sellers that you're a buyer they'd like to work with.

Buyers with small children can have difficulty finding a sitter on short notice so that they can take a look at a new listing. In most cases, it's fine to bring children with you to a property showing, although you may find it distracting. But, if you do, be sure to keep your children from bringing them along when you show a listing to his client.

Another real estate agent who was showing the listing at the same time reported back to the seller's listing agent that the children ran around the house and yard unsupervised. This created a nuisance and a very unpleasant environment for showing the listing. The listing agent was livid.

In another case, an agent who was showing a hot new listing refused to let other agents and their buyers into the house. She even went so far as to tell the other agents that the listing was already sold, which was not true. This unethical behavior didn't endure the agent was livid.

Buyers are often confused when they call a real estate office and have a hard time making an appointment to see a listing. Knowing a little bit about how the real estate business works may help you the next time you find yourself in this situation.

In most real estate offices, agents take turns answering calls. So, unless you specifically ask to talk to the listing agent, you're likely to reach an agent who's covering calls in the hope of generating business.

Real estate agents usually work

terms of a loan, or existing creditors reviewing your account.

All offer links for disputing credit-report information or reporting an error. You'll also get the address and sometimes the phone number for each individual creditor, valuable if you need to follow up on an error. One industry study found that 50 percent of all credit reports contain errors significant enough for an individual to be denied a loan. At the very least, an inaccuracy could cost you thousands of dollars in extra interest.

Next time we'll look at interpreting your credit scores, ways to improve them and how the score affects your choice of loan programs and interest rates.

Ken Ball is a loan officer with GT Capital and can be reached at 510-604-0320 or ken@gtcapital.com.

Ball

FROM PAGE B2

report showing the number of potentially negative items in your report and number of accounts in good standing.

Equifax has an exhaustive list of accounts, what type they are, when they were opened, the balance and credit limit, last payment and account status.

TransUnion uses a color-coded series of boxes to show which accounts are current and which are overdue.

What is especially valuable at each site is learning who has been looking at your credit report — credit-card companies seeking to pre-approve you for a credit-card offer, mortgage brokers or lenders trying to determine the

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A gardener's work space can be functional, decorative

BY LUCY PERRY
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

If you're hardening off plants in your basement or taking up garage space with old pots, dangling hoses and bags of mulch, consider a potting shed.

Both functional and decorative, these outbuildings are where America's love affair with gardening intertwines with a gardener's need for organization. As gardening continues to grow in popularity, potting sheds are becoming a key feature in the backyard landscape.

Carolyn Hinkle considers her potting shed "gardening central" at her Independence, Mo., home. It's where she harvests the perennials she raises for the Independence Garden Club's pre-Mother's Day plant sale; last year she potted 750 of them.

"I do utilize my shed a lot," says Hinkle, whose husband, Larry, designed it after the two spotted one they liked at a home show. The couple had the structure built by a local company four years ago. "We used some of their basic plans but told them how we wanted it to look," said Carolyn Hinkle.

Hinkle wanted her 16-by-10-foot potting shed to face the back of her house. From that position, she says, "you're looking toward your house so if someone is trying to get your attention, say for a phone call, you'll see them."

Many potting shed owners say two elements are important: light and water. Hinkle says of the two, water is more critical. "You want to have water access. Now I have electricity because (starting) the first of April, I'm out there many times till 9 at night," she says. "But, you can get by without electricity, not water."

Hinkle's husband designed the shed with a pitched roof. "My husband and the builders got to thinking it could get hot with a little old short roof."

Besides the front door, the shed

also has a large side door where a concrete ramp allows Hinkle to run a cart in and out.

"Maybe I have a big wheelbarrow and I'm mixing soil and it starts to rain. I can run the barrow right into my potting shed."

The shed's floor is concrete as well. "I wouldn't be without it," Hinkle says. "You'll (store) bags of soil or fertilizer, and they can take on moisture. Plus, you can get critters, especially ants, in there. You're lessening that if you have concrete."

For most of her gardening work, Hinkle uses a potting bench under one of the shed's two overhangs. She stores her hand tools in the bench, keeps her larger digging tools on hooks inside, devotes the shed's shelves to gardening work and hangs her 23 soaker hoses across the boards in the pitched rafters.

But one piece of landscape equipment has been banished from the shed: "We don't use it for storing lawn mowers. If you do, you'll have a storage shed."

Johnson County, Kan., master gardener John Stewart finished his potting shed last April, minus electricity and water. Stewart and his wife, Jody, looked for a garden focal point for some time before settling on a potting shed.

"We thought about an arbor, but then my mother-in-law brought over a Better Homes and Gardens magazine and said, 'Look at these potting sheds.' We ordered the plans."

The Stewarts' shed is an 8-by-11-foot replica of an English security building at the front of an estate, says Stewart. "The thing that attracted us was, first, it had lots of glass in it, and second the one featured was made out of recycled materials."

Although the Stewarts adjusted their plans to meet both Prairie Village and their home association's codes, they made the shed a recycled labor of love.

"There are three storm door in-

DOING IT YOURSELF

If you're designing the space, you self, trust your instincts. Think about your personality, the things you and how you'll use the space. Allow enough space so that you

cause of the heat generated the direction.

Consider temperature fluctuation. The potting shed should be well ventilated, especially if you're working with seedlings. Keep a handy in the winter to ward off mildew and circulate the air.

Running water is a must; electric nice to have.

Install work surfaces and floors can be easily cleaned.

Incorporate recycled materials, ever possible.

Seedlings need lots of light, probably natural sunlight. If your plants don't include lots of windows, consider installing grow lights or a of fluorescent tubes that can be fixed from the ceiling.

Allow for space and tools to work surfaces and containers, maintain a clean work space to prevent the spread of disease to tender seedlings.

Sources: Floyd Hooper, Carolyn Kle, John Stewart, Andy Newcomer, Lala Kumar, horticulture speake

sets I collected on heavy trash from various places in the Stewart says.

"One window came out of a house where we put in a window," Stewart says. "One boxes took out a window and salvaged it. The wood I recycled of some decking. The shingles leftovers from the last time I house roofed."

Stewart's original plans call

See SHEDS, Page B13

Reid

FROM PAGE B3



DIAN HYMER
House Hunting

on commission. If you already have an agent, another agent will be less than enthusiastic about showing you a listing.

There's nothing in it for him. Proper protocol would be to ask your own agent to show you the listing. If you don't have an agent, don't be offended if the agent you talk to on the phone requires that you meet at her office rather than at a vacant property. The agent has no way to know who you are.

THE CLOSING: This is done as a security precaution.

Dian Hymer can be reached at 510-339-4777 or by e-mail at Dian@Dianhymer.com.

TIDBITS

■ It's Independence Day. On

July 4 spectators will be treated to the friendly waves of two groups of

real estate professionals at the Alameda celebration parade.

The Alameda Association of Realtors

and "Team Advantage" from Gal-

ler & Lindsey will be par-

ticipants showing their Red

and Blue. Wave back!

■ Felecia Favrto

new company, Next Level Re-

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town Oakland. Favrto is a

president of the WCR East

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Wallflowers for years, Frank Lloyd Wright homes are a tough sell

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The spacious old house in Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood seemed to be an attractive property.

The 90-year-old brick and stucco structure is 2,700 square feet, has four bedrooms and 3 1/2 baths and sits on nearly half an acre — a large lot in the city. It also has the cachet of being designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, widely considered America's greatest architect.

But it seemed nobody wanted to buy the house, which had been on the market for about a year and a half. Until the owner took the unusual step of selling it at an auction.

The owner had discovered a hard truth about Wright homes in this era of big, open living spaces and spa tubs: They are difficult to sell.

Home buyers today are in search of huge master-bedroom suites, expansive kitchens and large family rooms, none of which are standard in Wright houses, mostly built from the late 1890s until his death in 1959. With the added cost of preserving an older historic home and the premium price tag placed on Wright houses, many languish on the market for years.

"Many people are interested in Frank Lloyd Wright properties. But not everybody really wants to live in one," said Jan Kerr, a real estate agent in Oak Park, Ill., site of many Wright homes, who has sold seven in her 26-year career.

Just ask Arlene Moran of Galesburg, Mich., about 160 miles east of Chicago. Moran's three-bedroom, two-bath home designed by Wright, on which she spent about \$180,000 for renovations, has been for sale for two years. "I've begged people to call me back after they've seen it and tell me what they consider not desirable," Moran said.

She has set a firm price of \$375,000 to recover her costs, but Moran has refused offers from people who planned to use the house as a bed-and-breakfast or time-share vacation home.

"You need to have somebody who's going to take care of it," Moran said. "These people were interested, but I wasn't interested in them. These things should not be done to a work of art."

The owner of the Wright home in Rogers Park decided to put it up for auction as a last resort after the house failed to receive any offers, said Ken Goldberg, executive managing director of Sheldon Good Brokerage and the broker for the house during its last two sales.

People who wanted to live in the house thought the bedrooms were too small, and half of the prospective buyers were developers who thought the limitations on future development on the large lot were too restrictive, he said.

"It's been a very tough sale because it's overpriced. Secondly, the Frank Lloyd Wright house doesn't belong in East Rogers Park. It's out of place there," Goldberg said. "Had it been in Oak Park (Ill.) it probably would've sold 10 times. We took the price from \$2.5 million to \$1.9 million, and we still had resistance."

Some Wright home sellers have unrealistic expectations when setting their price and believe that a Wright-designed home entitles them to a 20 percent markup, said Ron Scherubel, executive director of the Chicago-based Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy, which tracks the sale of Wright homes.

The owner of the Rogers Park home is Chicago-area restaurateur and developer Reza Toulabi, who bought the home and adjacent lot in 2000 for nearly \$700,000, ac-

cording to property records.

It sold at auction last week in eight minutes, for several hundred thousand dollars above the opening bid of \$750,000.

That sale marks the second known time that a home designed by Wright has been put up for auction, Scherubel said. The first was in the Cincinnati area, and it sold for \$400,000 in 2003 — half the price of the opening bid of \$800,000.

The Rogers Park home, in the 7400 block of North Sheridan Road, was built in 1915 for Emil Bach, a Wright enthusiast who co-owned a brick company. The structure reflects Wright's transition from the Prairie Style to his Usonian period, during which he created moderately priced homes with more open floor space.

The home has an adjacent yard that is zoned for low-density development, such as a two-flat or townhouses, which has been used as a selling point. The new owner does not have plans to build on the yard next door.

Several Wright enthusiasts said any development on the side lawn would not honor the architect's design. Frank Miller, 36, a banker whose family lived in the house from 1969 to 1978, said building a structure next door would change the way light filters into the home. Miller's father spearheaded the effort to landmark the home in 1977.

"The windows are designed to see certain things or have a certain view," Miller said. "The more you build around it, the more you take away from a piece of the puzzle of who Frank Lloyd Wright was."

The house's landmark status means city approval is required before any major changes can be made to it. Along with historic-preservation laws and challenges



CHUCK BERMAN/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

THIS FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT HOME on Chicago's Far North Side has been a tough sell. The famous architect's gems stir the imagination but often leave buyers wanting more space for less cash.

Maintenance costs for Wright homes also add up, with the newest houses about 50 years old.

"Anything you do to a Wright house is rather unique," Scherubel said. "Fix-up costs are marginally, incrementally higher in a Wright house because they're custom jobs. You don't go to Home Depot."

Yet while owners of Wright homes may find it takes longer to

sell than a typical house in the suburbs, there is still a niche market, said Tim Quigley, board president of the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy.

"Interest in Wright's work continues unabated," Quigley said.

"It's a mating game, just finding the right people for these houses is a bit of patient search, that's all."

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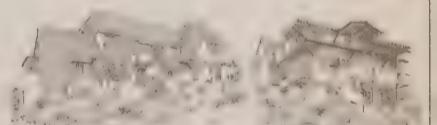
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Warm air furnace produces must equal cold air returned

BY ALAN J. HEAVENS
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Q: This winter, our gas furnace seemed to be on almost all the time, and the second floor never went above 60 degrees. The previous owner laid insulation across the top of joists. Could that insulation merely be keeping the space between the joists warm, letting our heat escape into the gap?

A: It might be the insulation, or it might be your heating system. For a forced-air system to work properly, the supply of warm air the furnace produces must equal the cold air returned to the furnace to fuel combustion. If there aren't enough return vents or if they are improperly spaced, air will race through your rooms to the furnace and down to the basement, creating a draft and minimizing warm-air delivery.

Of course, if the attic is not properly insulated, what warm air does make it to the second floor will almost immediately escape through the ceiling. And come summer, your air conditioner will work harder because the rooms below the attic won't be protected from the heat building up there.

Contact a heating contractor to determine whether the furnace is the right size for the house and whether there are enough correctly spaced returns for proper air circulation.

If the furnace isn't the problem, you'll need to bring in an insulation contractor, who will determine how much insulation is needed and what kind of insulation to install, based on standards established by the U.S. Department of Energy. The contractor should make sure that there aren't any gaps between the

insulation batts, and that the batts aren't compressed in the space, which reduces their efficiency.

Q: We have a large brick heat-vent stack in our small kitchen that takes up considerable space. Could I take off the plaster that covers the brick from floor to ceiling and expose the brick for architectural interest?

I: I assume I'd need to have the brick pointed to contain the exhaust emissions, but could I do the plaster removal in a weekend?

A: If your house was built before 1978, there might be asbestos behind or in the plaster. Take a small sample of the plaster and send it to a lab approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for testing. (See <http://www.epa.gov/asbestos/>.)

bestos/ for general information about asbestos and its hazards; for local testing resources, call 800-368-5888.)

If the lab report comes back clean, seal off the kitchen completely - plaster dust gets into everything. Chisel the plaster off carefully, so you don't damage the brickwork underneath. And, yes, this is a job you can do in a weekend.

If any mortar is loose or missing, bring in a masonry contractor to point the brick.

Have questions for Alan J. Heavens? Send them to *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Box 8263, 400 N. Broad St., Philadelphia 19101 or aheavens@phillynews.com.

CONTACT THE REAL ESTATE EDITOR AT 510-748-1655 OR E-MAIL DEVANOSKY@CCTIMES.COM.

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A cup of Realtor alphabet soup

■ A guide to those Realtor designations

BY BOBBIE REID
CORRESPONDENT

Picture this. You have a real estate agent's card in your hand and you see "John Smith, CRS" or "Jane Jones, GRI". Sometimes there is even a veritable "alphabet soup" of letters behind the name, like Bob Doe, ABR, CRS, GRI. So, what are all those letters? What do they mean?

The letters stand for a designation earned by the Realtor whose card you are perusing. That Realtor put in a good deal of time and studied hard to receive that particular designation. A Realtor designation is awarded after the required courses are successfully completed. More than one set of letters denotes more than one designation.

NAR offers 18 programs that allow agents to gain these specialized skills. Space won't allow giving an overview of all designations, but here are some of the most frequently seen.

CRS is a Certified Residential Specialist. The Certified Residential Specialist designation is awarded to experienced Realtors, who complete advanced training in listing and selling. CRS designees benefit from a nationwide referral system and sales/marketing support.

GRI stands for Graduate Realtor Institute. These are agents who participate in the Realtor Institute Program and earn the GRI designation. They are members involved in residential real estate who want a solid base of information for their practice. These are top performers keeping up with new technology, laws and procedures.

The Women's Council of Realtors offers a designation designed to focus on current topics driving the marketplace. It provides real-world tools and skills to today's practitioners. The Performance Management Network (PMN) designation replaces WCR's LTG designation. It is earned through courses in negotiation, networking and referrals.

ABR denotes an Accredited Buyer Representative. Realtors with an ABR belong to the Real Estate Buyer's Agent Council (REBAC), the largest association of real estate professionals focusing on all aspects of buyer representation. The designees have completed the REBAC course, passed a test and provided documentation of buyer agency experience.

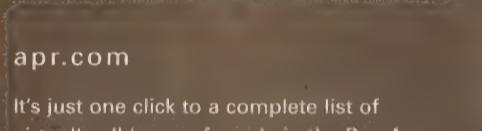
A new designation is e-PRO. It is a training program presented entirely on-line to certify real estate



Rosewood Estates

New Release

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Alain Pinel Realtors revolutionized how residential real estate was practiced in 1990 and we continue to innovate—delivering the highest level of service and professionalism in the industry. We couldn't imagine doing it any other way.

Feel at home faster after you move

A checklist to help new homeowners get settled
BY SCOTT THOMPSON
CORRESPONDENT

Moving to a new community can be a great adventure, if you go with the right attitude and a sound strategy for settling-in. Incorporate these into an action plan, and you'll be focused, organized and proactive—just what's needed to put down fast.

More You Go

• Complete a change of address form with the post office, which can be done online at the United States Postal Services Web site, usps.com.

• Send your new address to any publications you subscribe to, as it may take up to eight weeks for the change to become effective.

• Contact the Visitor's Bureau materials about your new town, which should include a map. Identify important routes, such as those between your home and your office or your child's school.

oup

ON PAGE B6

agents and brokers as Internet Professionals. e-PRO is not about technology, it's about using people skills to provide service on the Internet. e-PRO awarded the e-PRO certification have completed extensive smrt training.

CRE is a Counselor of Real Estate. A CRE is a member of The Counselors of Real Estate, an international group of recognized professionals who provide seasoned, objective advice on real property and land-related matters. Only 1000 practitioners throughout the world hold this designation. Membership by invitation only.

CIPS stands for Certified International Property Specialist. Many actors work with buyers and sellers from different countries and cultures. Designees have demonstrated their international experience by participating in international programs offered by the National Association of Realtors.

CCIM is a Certified Commercial Investment Member. CCIM's are recognized experts in commercial real estate brokerage, leasing, asset management, valuation and investment analysis.

SRES identifies a Seniors Real Estate Specialist. Realtors with the SRES designation help meet the special needs and concerns of making Americans when buying or selling residential or investment properties.

Consumers working with Real Designees can expect a high degree of professionalism. Advanced education and training provides an opportunity to have an edge over competition.

To find out more about these designations visit www.realtor.org.

Bobbie Reid is a Bay Area real estate columnist. Send questions to bobrieid@mindspring.com.

• Make initial contact with child-care facilities. Depending on the area you move to, you may need to put your name on a waiting list.

• If possible, enroll your children in school. Firm plans will reduce the stress.

• Pack a box with essentials for your first few nights, such as prescription medicine, toiletries, a telephone, clothing, towels, toilet paper, and bed linens.

• You'll also want to make arrangements for to have utilities transferred to your name or turned on. In addition, you will want to set up appointments to have services such as telephone, cable and high-speed Internet connected.

Upon Arrival

• For safety and peace of mind, change the locks. You never know who has a copy of the house key.

• Locate emergency services—police and fire stations and the closest hospital.

• Hang drapes or curtains to give you some privacy.

• Select one room, perhaps the family room, as a place of refuge. Make it a cozy space, free of unpacked boxes, empty cartons or anything else move-related.

• Stock the refrigerator with prepared entrees and the makings for no-fuss meals.

See MOVE, Page B8

CHARMING, SPACIOUS ELMWOOD CONDO



2924 Hillegass Avenue, Berkeley

Welcome to this lovely 2+ bedroom ground floor unit in wonderful Brown Shingle. Formal dining room, fireplace, large updated kitchen & inside laundry room. Plus space, ideal for office or 3rd bedroom. Nicely landscaped fenced front yard. Seconds to the popular Elmwood district. Close to Whole Foods, BART, Alta Bates & U.C.

Offered at \$575,000

Open Sat. 2 - 4pm
2025 Otis Dr. #A,
Alameda

Visit a photo tour of this great condo at www.berkhills.com



Denise Milburn
510.410.2424 Cell
510.524.9888 x35, Office
dilmilburn@yahoo.com

BERKELEY HILLS REALTY

BERKELEY HILLS 510.524.9888



439 Spruce St., Berkeley
Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00

New listing! This majestic Traditional delivers phenomenal Bay views. The living room boasts a wood-beamed cathedral ceiling, graceful archways, a fireplace & hardwood floors. Featuring 5 bdrms and 4 full baths, this home also presents a dignified home office w/separate entrance & waiting room. Offered in excellent condition, recent improvements include drainage upgrades and dual-pane windows.

Bill and Tracy, x33

\$1,200,000



1255 Contra Costa Drive, El Cerrito

By Appointment

Secluded Retreat! Wonderful view home near hiking trails. 4-bdrm, 2-bath with many special features. Large living room with random plank floors, elegant fireplace. Gourmet kitchen. Family/exercise room, hot tub, deck overlooking lush garden. Sunny, secluded patio. A must see!

Gay & Kay, x51 \$899,000



1618 Capistrano Ave., Berkeley

By Appointment

3 bdrm, 2 bath Mediterranean charmer with great curb appeal in a covered neighborhood, close to Solano Ave. Numerous modern upgrades, includes 2nd story master suite addition and remodeled kitchen. Lovely landscaped front and back yards.

Norah Brower, x26 \$795,000



1812 Sixth Street, #B, Berkeley

By Appointment

Here's a rare opportunity to own this exceptional, chic & trendy, but also warm & inviting, newer, spacious work loft. Free standing w/magical pvt. grdn. Spectacular gourmet kit w/custom wood cabinets, Italian marble baths, bamboo flrs, skylights & extensive upgrades. Ideal for owner/artist. Seconds to upscale 4th St. shops, cafes & restaurants.

Denise Milburn, x35 \$595,000



2924 Hillegass Ave., Berkeley

Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:30

New listing! Lovely, charming ground floor, spacious 2+ bdrm condo in wonderful Brown Shingle. Updated kit, formal dining area w/fpl, inside laundry rm, & plus space ideal for office or 3rd bdrm. Shared front yd & designated parking space. Seconds to Elmwood/great stores, cafes & restaurants. Nr Alta Bates, Whole Foods, BART & U.C. Shows beautifully.

Denise Milburn, x35 \$575,000



651 Moraga Rd., #33, Moraga

By Appointment

Sophisticated townhouse-style condominium in quiet, wooded complex with lovely pool. This two-story unit features 2 bdrms, 1.5 baths w/Berber carpets, new dual-pane windows/patio doors, deck and private patio. Minutes to shops, parks and exceptional schools.

Warren Lei, x14 \$419,000

Albany ■ Berkeley ■ El Cerrito ■ Emeryville ■ Kensington ■ Oakland ■ Piedmont ■ Richmond ■ and beyond

Visit www.berkhills.com for our Photo Tours

A sampling of our current listings:

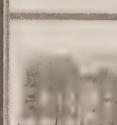


Vallejo
Carquinez Heights 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Just 30 minutes to Oakland or Marin. Great unit for partners or shared ownership with 2 master suites. Tenant occupied thru Sept 2005.

\$385,000



Fruitvale Craftsman
Remodeled 3 bedroom, 2 bath spacious bungalow with many upgrades. Inlaid wood floors, plenty of off street parking and attractive gardens and rear deck. \$479,000



Civic Center
Two year new condo in the heart of San Francisco. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. An elegant and refined condo with marble bathrooms and granite/stainless kitchen. 1 car garage parking.

\$695,000

Prudential
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Jim Hedges
Manager
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BANG
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6219 Outlook Ave Oakland

3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms on street level. View of the bay from two bedrooms and deck area. Inside stairway to ground level 1 bedroom 1 bath in-law space with large closet. Recent remodeling and new carpet.

\$599,900

Ron Bang Realty

800 784.5869

Cell 510 205.9551

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Attached 2-car garage
\$530,000

Open Sat & Sun 1-4
1423 Middleborough Way,
Hayward

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community of New England Village.
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\$109,000

14164 Outrigger Dr.
At Marina Seagate, two-story
3.5BA 1-car garage in immaculate
condition featuring two 1-car garages, many
upgrades.

14161 Seagate
2BR/2BA, 1-car garage and 1
carport. Very spacious, close to
Montgomery golf course
and San Leandro Marina

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San Leandro, CA 94577

Looking for a new home? Don't miss this week's Open Home Guide on page B18.

Move

FROM PAGE B7

The First Week

Check with the post office to see if they are holding mail for you. Finish sending out change of address to credit card companies, clubs, associations, friends and family.

File away all documents related to the move. You'll need them for verification of moving expenses at tax time.

Call your waste removal company or department of sanitation for a trash collection schedule.

Open a bank account and arrange for a safe deposit box, if needed.

Obtain a local driver's license and register the vehicle registration.

Register to vote. Call the local Board of Elections for information.

Take a tour of your neighborhood to become familiar with your new surroundings. Learn the routes to work, school, grocers, etc.

Help Your Children Adjust

- Maintain family routines. Kids will appreciate the continuity of family life.
- Involve the kids. Allow them to select new furnishings or decorate their rooms.
- Take your children to the local playground. If you move during the summer, it's likely they'll make friends there, which should ease the transition to the new school.

- Try to be home when the children return from their first day at school. Kids feel reassured when a parent is there to hear about their day.

- Watch for signs of adjustment problems. These can manifest as trouble making friends, academic difficulties, and irritability or depression.

- Spend time outdoors. Neighbors may greet you and come by for sidewalk chats.

- Walk your dog in an area

where you see other dog owners congregating.

Schedule an after-work coffee or dessert hour. Invite neighbors to drop by.

Choose a place to worship and get involved; consider doing volunteer work.

Select professional service providers such as doctor, dentist and veterinarian.

Find out if your community has a Newcomers Club. Your local library is a good place to start.

Join a club or take up activities you enjoyed before the move.

Take a job-related class to develop new professional contacts and update skills.

Don't hesitate to contact your real estate professional for more ideas or information about your new community.

By re-establishing daily patterns and developing ties soon after arrival, your new environment will begin to feel like home.

Scott Thompson is a Realtor with Prudential California Realty and can

CONTACT THE REAL ESTATE EDITOR AT 510-748-1655
OR E-MAIL DEVANOSKY@CCTIMES.COM.

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*5.674% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$359,650 loan amount + 1 pt. loan fee. Applicable closing costs will apply. 10/1 adjustable rate mortgage is fixed for the first 10 years and then adjusted to market rate every year thereafter. Estimated payment on maximum conforming loan amount of \$359,650 is approximately \$2,014 subject to maximum loan-to-value of 80%. Homeowners insurance required.

**5.315% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$359,650 loan amount + 1 pt. loan fee. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 15 years and subject to maximum loan-to-value of 80%. Estimated payment on maximum conforming loan amount is approximately \$2,656. Homeowners insurance required.

***5.858% estimated loan percentage rate is based on \$500,000 + 1 pt. loan fee. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 30 years and subject to maximum loan-to-value of 80%. Estimated payment is \$2,918. Homeowners insurance is required.

Above programs are based on primary, single family residences, townhouses, and condominiums only. No prepayment penalty required. Cash out allowed up to 75% loan-to-value. Other restrictions may apply. All credit applications are subject to credit qualifications and underwriting requirements. Rates as of 6/27/05 are subject to change without notice.

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Now here's news that could have you bursting with excitement:

At Gable Lane and Heritage, you'll find an impressive selection of traditional home designs in California's newest hometown, Mountain House. From family-minded floorplans to community parks and pedestrian-friendly tree-lined streets, both neighborhoods offer comfortable master-planned living just steps from the brand new Wicklund Elementary School. Open daily 10-5; except Wed. 1-5.

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OAKLAND, CA 94611
PHONE: 510-292-2000www.redoakrealty.com

OAKLAND \$650,000
3/1 - Wonderfully bright bungalow in the heart of Rockridge. Updated kitchen, hardwood floors, 6 skylights, new heater, more
5109 Manila Avenue Open 2-4:30



OAKLAND \$859,000
5/2 - Charming bungalow on lovely street near the Piedmont border. Bright & spacious with sunny deck, peaceful back yard, more.
3908 Lakeshore Avenue Open 2-5



BERKELEY \$1,395,000
3++/2.5 - Bright, sunny and spacious with custom gourmet kitchen. Plus spaces include detached home theater, sitting & drawing rooms.
817 Mendocino Avenue Open 2-4:30



BERKELEY \$1,225,000
3 HOMES/1 LOT - Detached homes, great opportunity for extended families, TIC, co-housing. All renovated in 1999. Near U.C.B. & BART
1915 A,B,C Oregon Street Open 2-4



BERKELEY - NEW! \$588,000
2/1.5 - Townhouse with fresh paint inside and new carpet. Ample storage, woodsy courtyard. Close to BART & UC Berkeley.
2012 Hearst Avenue Unit A Open 2-4:30



BERKELEY \$1,100,000
6/5 - 1st time offered in over 50 years. Four level Mediterranean view home. Hardwood floors, large in-law apartment, level yard, more.
994 Euclid Avenue Open 2-4:30



BERKELEY \$985,000
2+2.5 - North Berkeley townhome with architecturally designed, understated elegance. Located in the heart of the Gourmet Ghetto
2211 Rose Street Open 2-4



BERKELEY \$589,000
1++/1.5 - Extraordinary, light-filled West Berkeley live/work. 1,500 square feet. Close to 4th Street. More at www.justsellmyhouse.com
2430 5th Street Unit D Open 2-4:30



BERKELEY \$875,000
2+2.5 - North Berkeley townhome in the heart of the Gourmet Ghetto with private garden, Brazilian cherry floors, detached garage.
2209 Rose Street Open 2-4



KENSINGTON \$653,900
2/1 - Gorgeous Mediterranean style bungalow. Hardwood floors, fireplace, finished basement with studio/bedroom space, garden.
416 Berkeley Park Boulevard Open 1-5



KENSINGTON \$549,000
2/1 - Bright & sunny cottage situated on a secluded 1-block section high in the hills. More information at www.bobblumberg.com.
531 Kenyon Avenue Open 2-4



WALNUT CREEK - NEW! \$699,000
3/2 - Private & verdant with crown molding, hardwoods & decorator colors. Remodeled kitchen, 10,000 sq.ft. lot. Close to BART
418 Mayhew Way Open 2-4

Need closure?



by appointment

[july 3rd]

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3908 LAKESHORE AVENUE, OAKLAND

This charming 5 bedroom 2 bath Bungalow is located on a lovely street near the Piedmont border. Bright, spacious, open floor plan. Gracious living room with a marble fireplace and custom built-in cabinetry. Large bedroom that opens to a sunny deck and peaceful backyard. Gorgeous edible garden featuring grapes, apples, tomatoes, lemons and figs. Wonderful neighborhood within moments of Lakeshore, Grand and Piedmont Avenue shops and restaurants.

LISTED AT \$8529,000

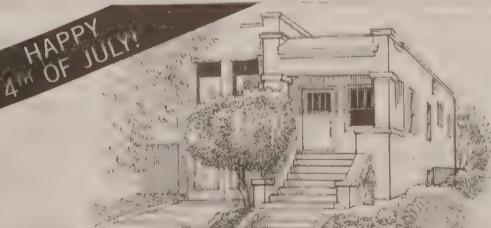
OPEN SUNDAY, JULY 3rd 2-5PM

Jennifer Fickenscher, Realtor®

DIRECT: 510-280-2171 EMAIL: jlf@redoakrealty.com

RED OAK REALTY

Just Listed!



816 CURTIS STREET, ALBANY

Wonderfully remodeled 2 bedroom, 1 bath split level home plus au pair suite downstairs with private entrance and full bath. New eat-in kitchen opens to large deck. Sunny and 1/2 block from Solano Avenue shops & restaurants.

LISTED AT \$585,000

OPEN SUNDAYS, JULY 10th & 17th 2-4PM
BROKERS TOUR - THURSDAY, JULY 7th 9:30-NOON

Feri Niroomand, Realtor®

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LISTED AT \$1,225,000

OPEN SUNDAY, JULY 3rd 2-4PM

Mamood Moktari, Licensed Real Estate Broker

DIRECT: 510-685-1415 EMAIL: mamood@redoakrealty.comEstablished
1976

RED OAK REALTY

Just Listed!

418 MAYHEW WAY
WALNUT CREEKOPEN SUNDAYS
JULY 3rd & 10th 2-4PM

This lush and serenely verdant Ranch style home is equipped with 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms in over 1,300 square feet of comfortable living. It's privately tucked away with a delightful entryway that flourishes with foliage. This home features a formal dining room and great room with a lovely fireplace and panoramic window that looks out over a 10,000 square foot lot with mature trees and a wonderful play structure. Enjoy back yard BBQ's and out door entertaining on a covered patio. The interior is rich with newly refinished hardwood floors, crown molding and decorator colors. The remodeled kitchen is equipped with stainless appliances and Mediterranean tiles. This spacious home is located in close proximity to BART, shops and easy freeway access.

LISTED AT \$699,000

Saraya Motley, Realtor®

DIRECT: 925-283-5025 EMAIL: saraya@eastbayhouse.com

Aging ash tree needs tender, loving care

Q. The leaves on my 30-year-old Modesto ash tree have turned brown and have fallen off the tree

several times. I've been told it's a type of fungus so I've sprayed it with a fungicide. In the past, the tree has bounced back; however, this year it does not appear to be as resilient. What else should I be doing?

A. Anthracnose or Modesto Ash Blight is an air-borne fungal disease that causes the leaves to turn brown and drop off. Besides Modesto ash, it's a problem with sycamore trees. The primary cause is cool, damp weather in the early spring. It infects or attacks the emerging leaves as they leaf out.

It can reoccur several times when the rainy season continues

into April and May. It was a big problem in 2003 but not last year. It's a common problem in many established neighborhoods that were originally planted in 1950 through the 1970s, when there wasn't the resistant varieties we have today.

Chemical controls are effective if your timing is perfect and the weather is dry. The fungicide only controls the current infection. It doesn't prevent or eradicate the problem from reoccurring when the right set of conditions exist.

See BUZZ, Page B16



BUZZ BENTOLERO

The Dirt Gardener



1945-47 FRANCISCO

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Laurel Strand (510) 339-9290

Sunday 2-4:30 \$768,000

8050 Phaeton Drive. Another 5BR/2BA Claude Oakland designed Eichler.

Myrtice Wong (510) 339-9290

Sunday 2-4 \$729,000

3831 Ross St., Rockridge. New listing 3BR/2BA Traditional, in great location.

Melitta Beeson (510) 845-0211

Sunday 2-4:30 \$625,000

1912 Tiffin Road. Charming 2BR/1BA on prime Oakmore Street. 1st Open.

Gina Rogers (510) 339-9290

Sunday 2-4:30 \$556,000

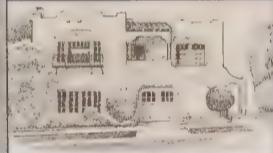
280 Caldecott #210. Stunning 2BR/2BA Condo in quiet location.

D.A. Hammond (510) 339-9290

Sunday 1-5 \$349,000

2740 68th Ave. Great starter home, FP, new roof, garage, basement.

Hamid Grinage (510) 834-2010



Sunday 2-5 \$539,000
1621-1625 E. 38th St., Oakland. Adorable Glenview duplex, upper 2BR/1BA, lower 1BR/1BA.

Dolores Thom (510) 834-2010

BERKELEY

Sunday 2-4:30 \$1,200,000
956 Arlington. Elegant 4BR/2+BA w/potential in-law. Library, sun room, lg. rms.

Judith Glass/Sheila Sabine (510) 428-0900

Sunday 2-4:30 \$555,000

2437 10th Street. 3BR/1BA, spacious & charming bungalow.

Irma Baldridge (510) 834-2010

Sunday 2-4 \$529,000

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Melitta Beeson (510) 845-0211

ALBANY

Sunday 2-4 \$849,000
1453 Washington Ave. 3BR/2+BA, 2 story, lg custom, extras ++.

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1945-47 Francisco St. Berkeley \$799,000

1920's Mediterranean golden duplex in the heart of the Gourmet Ghetto.....Open Sun 2-4

2998 Shasta Rd. Berkeley \$699,000

Classic 1940's with Bay views, blooming gardens and in-law potential.....Open Sun 2-4

2123 25th Ave. Oakland \$355,000

Still charming after all these years! 1898 cottage w/sun porch and original details.....Open Sun 2-4

PENDING SALE

622 Western Drive Pt. Richmond \$725,000

441 45th Street Oakland \$685,000

1536-1538 62nd Street Berkeley \$649,000

962 54th Street Oakland \$625,000

424 Staten Avenue #303 Oakland \$279,000

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Roberta Ousterman (510) 428-0900

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Richmond Annex. Location, All 2BR/1BA. Large units w/views. 853-8810.

Anna Li (510) 527-9800

Sunday 1-4 \$430,000

865 24th St., Richmond. Tri-level, 2BD/1BA + upper bonus rm + 1BA down. Ad #012.

Bob & Shirley Sharp (510) 758-5637

Sunday 2-4:30 \$749,000

743 55th St., North Oakland. 4-Plex, new carpet & interior paint. Rear yard and parking. 3 units vacant!

(510) 834-2010

RESIDENTIAL INCOME

Sunday 2-5 \$579,000

5309 El Camile Ave., Oakland. Res/Com. 3-Plex. great opportunity!

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Getting closet savvy: Making things easier to find makes life easier

AIA

Is your navy pea coat stuffed in your closet in between your cotton summer tees and vintage cocktail dress? Are your slinky stilettos parked next to your tennis shoes and ski boots? How good would it feel to have everything organized according to its purpose — formal, fashion, business, casual — and season?

With a little imagination and a lot of help from our organization experts, your closet doesn't have to be a nightmare every morning. "A major culprit of stressful mornings is the closet, especially for women," says Amy Purcell of Schulte Distinctive Storage, a leading supplier of innovative home storage and organization products.

"People stand in front of their closets wondering what to wear, and as soon as they figure that out, they can't find that special piece of clothing to complete the look." She says the trick to getting organized is to find a plan and a system, and stick with it. Here's some more advice to get your closet in gear for the changing seasons and beyond:

Before you even think about organizing your closet, sort. It's one of the most important steps in the

process. Ask yourself, "Does it fit, does it flatter, and will I ever wear it again?" And let's face it," says Purcell, "we all hold on to things that we love, but will absolutely never wear again." In fact, Americans wear only 20 percent of what is in their closet. The general rule is if you haven't worn it in a year, you probably never will.

Pitch clothes that are torn, outdated, stained or simply don't fit anymore. Pieces that need mending should be placed out of the way. All discarded clothing can be donated to a local charity like Dress for Success, a nonprofit organization that helps underprivileged women make a professional transition into the workforce. If you're looking for a little extra cash, post your old belongings on an online auction house, have a garage sale, or take them to a re-sell shop.

Before you toss everything back into your closet, commit to a closet organization system. These are not only an excellent investment for your home, but also for your sanity!

They can be purchased at stores like Organized Living and can be customized to include shoe racks, shelves, drawers and accessories. According to Purcell, choose the system with the greatest flexibility;

it will save you money down the road because it can be easily re-configure for seasonal wardrobe changes and every fashion trend you care to follow.

"Adjustability is key to an organized closet. Make sure you're able to move things around as your needs change," she adds.

If you're fashion conscious, a basic wire storage system might not suit your tastes. Instead, look for today's newer systems — wood finished in white, maple or cherry with stylish, coordinating hardware. They last forever and you won't get tired of them.

"Try on" a number of closet designs before purchasing by visiting www.schultestorage.com. The site's Design It Yourself feature allows visitors to design their closet based on the space's exact measurements in five easy clicks. The site will provide you with a variety of options, including configurations and accompanying parts, as well as price, which makes it easy to shop.

"When it comes to fashion, changing your mind is a woman's prerogative — the same goes for closet designs," Purcell says. So, when you're designing, ask yourself: Do you need more shelves for your wool and merino-blend

sweaters, additional shoe and boot racks or several more rods for all of your hanging garments? Do you need extra hooks for belts and leather bags? Everyone's needs are different, according to Purcell, but with today's extremely functional systems, everything from scarves to ties to evening wear has its place.

After you've installed your newly purchased closet organization system or modified your existing system with additional components, you're ready to put your closet back together and get your wardrobe in order for the season.

For fall, place swimsuits, flip-flops, sandals and sundresses in plastic storage containers or fold and stack these items on the upper-most shelves in your closet, out of the way to make room for comfy cool-weather clothes.

Lightweight garments that must remain hanging can simply be pushed to the back of the closet (out of sight). "We recommend separating clothes by category."

says Purcell. "This is where adjustability is essential. You can easily move a shelf here and there without taking apart your entire closet."

Group your dress pants together, blouses, trousers, skirts and so on. Go a step further by organizing by color, too. For winter, push lighter colors to the back of the line-up and bring warm tones like gray, chocolate and black to the front of the closet.

These are pieces that you will likely wear more often anyway. To further maximize closet space and wardrobe accessibility, Purcell suggests the following:

■ Be sure you have plenty of double-hang space in your closet; double-hang is two sections of hanging rods stacked vertically. Doing this instantly doubles your storage space and is perfect for hanging your favorite tees, jeans, trousers, camisoles and blouses that often get lost at the bottom of

a drawer. You'll wear them often and they'll look better.

■ Put bathrobes on hangers along with ties, scarves and belts. The more hooks the better!

■ Separate everyday outerwear like parkas, overcoats and breakers (consider a coat closet offsite closet in a spare room).

■ Fold sweaters (to prevent wrinkling) and shawls in storage.

■ Add drawers to your closet — it's the perfect and easiest place for underwear, socks and workout gear. This saves you valuable floor space in the bedroom.

■ Group dresses in one (or on one rod) with casuals then cocktail and evening.

For more storage tips call Schulte Distinctive Storage www.schultestorage.com.

— Courtesy of ARA Co.

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COMING SOON: Open Sunday, July 17th 2:00-4:30pm. Built in 2002, this four bedroom and four bath contemporary home looks out into a wooded canyon preserve plus views of San Francisco, the Golden Gate and Bay Bridges. Cherry hardwood floors are on the main level including the stunning gourmet kitchen and open family room with a fireplace. The master suite is on a floor to itself with a large walk-in closet, shower, tub and dressing areas. A highlight of this home is that every bedroom has a view of the City, bridges and canyon.

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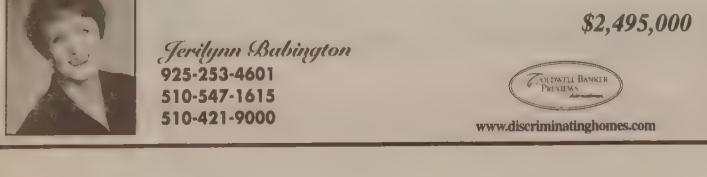
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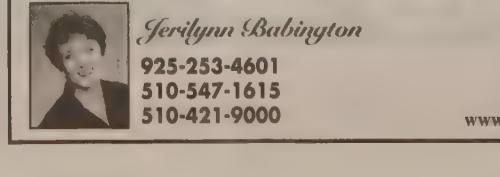
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Sheds

FROM PAGE B4

concrete foundation, but using his rock as inspiration, he built a wooden platform on the ground with spaces between the planks, "so if I settled something I could sweep it off the cracks in the floor." Inspired by what he saw at a Cincinnati garden show, he "put a lot of plants on top of the shed, and planted hanging plants in it." The shed's small porch is mostly decoration. "It's designed more

windows on one side for plants and shelves on the other for storage and potting, it was designed with skyights as well.

"The windows open, and I have a window box above the door for impatiens every summer." Like Stewart, Hooper is a Johnson County master gardener and he, too, had plants installed above the ground for flooring, but he had drainage in mind in his design. "I put a lot of plants out there in the winter time, and I water them, so the water goes through the crack."

Situated behind the house, the shed-greenhouse combo sits com-

his parents' help. A photo stylist for Hallmark for 20 years, he says his Kansas City back yard has evolved into less of a gardening work station and more of a home for his collection of photo props.

"I didn't have an overall grand plan when I started working on the yard, but one thing led to another," he said. "I started by building a fountain with Mom and Dad, and we thought a potting shed would be great back in the corner."

Newcom, who has his father's penchant for architectural research, has collected things over the years

that have found a home either in or around the shed. He scavenged a window from neighbors who were redoing their kitchen.

Hagedorn's work bench came from the lumberyard in a small Missouri town. He even has a bust of someone sitting inside the structure, and he "takes guesses of who this person is."

A candle chandelier, found in Omaha, Neb., hangs from the ceiling inside the shed, which sports a brick floor and an old zinc-trimmed stained-glass door.

"I have little bits and pieces from trips I've been on. I'm looking all

the time for things for both work and myself."

"Then I have shelves on the north wall filled with containers—vases, jars, things like that—for flowers to go in. I shoot a lot of flowers for work." Newcom's shed won a national contest for Country Gardens magazine, and his yard was on the Design Industry Foundation's First AIDS garden tour last year.

"And it's because we did it completely out of our love for creating. These things are all things I like to do: the flowers, my gardens, and building with Mom and Dad. You follow your passion and when you do that, you're successful."

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A sought after Rockridge with restaurants, shops, and transportation nearby, this 1906 Prairie-style home has 3+ bedrooms & 2+ baths. Box beamed ceilings and built-in cabinetry lend a traditional appeal. Oak planking of the open-plan kitchen floor adds this room's generous feel. With abundant views overlooking the west facing lawn and gardens, breakfast room provides a comfortable setting for meal prep. Every room in this home offers warmth and comfort, making everyone feel instantly at home. Visit www.6457Colby.com for more information.

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Contact Patricia Scott Winslow to make an appointment to see this beautiful & distinctive home.



- 3+ bedrooms, 2+ baths, home office
- Formal-double living room & dining room, both w/fireplaces
- Beautiful turn-of-the-century built-in cabinetry
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- Fabulous breakfast area opens to level-out wisteria covered deck
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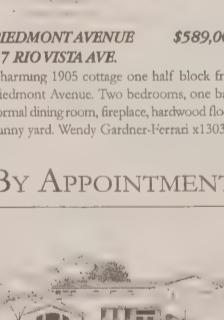
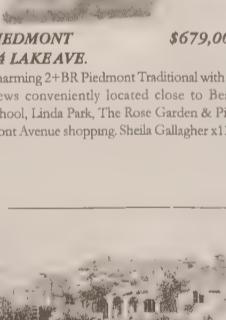
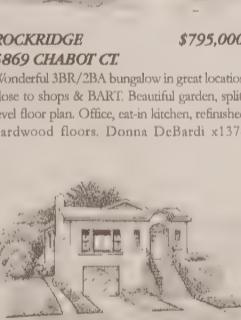
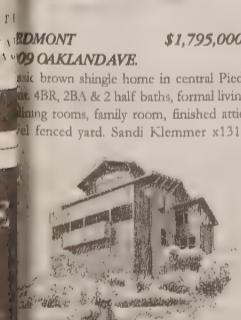
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G M A C Real Estate

OPEN SUNDAY 2:00-4:30

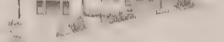


SAN LEANDRO \$465,000
550 MAUD AVE. (Open 1-4)
New Listing! Charming 1914 craftsman bungalow in convenient location. 2BR/1 updated bath, hardwood floors, built-ins, remodeled kitchen, great yard. Michelle Miller x1334

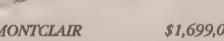
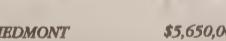
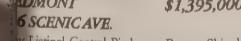


BERKELEY \$250,000
2250 DANA ST. #7C (Open 2-4)
Bright & sunny 1BR/1BA in well established Senior Cooperative. Freshly painted, new carpet & appliances, views of SF, enclosed lanai. Must be 55+ years of age. Leslie Easterday x1363

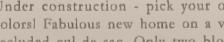
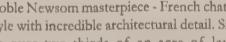
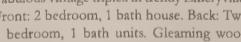
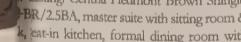
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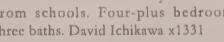
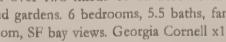
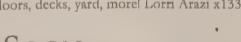
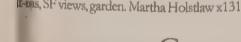
SEQUOYAH HEIGHTS \$659,000
All level ranch style three bedroom, two bath home. Large lot with peaks and views of the bay. Easy floor plan including formal living and dining rooms and family room. Sandi Klemmer x1314



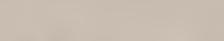
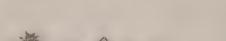
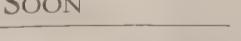
BERKELEY \$529,000
2028 Prince Street. 2+BR/1BA. Pied-a-terre down! Well, not quite, but the location is to die for. One block to BART, four blocks to the Berkeley Bowl. Two story home on desirable tree-lined street. Tom Nemeth x1381



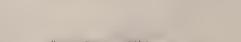
MONTCLAIR LOT \$225,000
Great development potential. Very buildable with moderate grade on northwest side of parcel. Soils report available upon request. Peaceful vistas across Shepherd Canyon. Approximately 6,648 square feet. David Ichikawa x1331



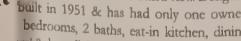
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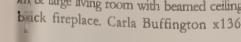
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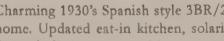
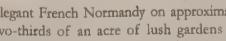
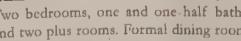
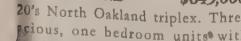
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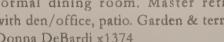
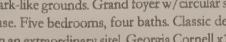
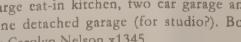
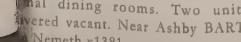
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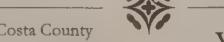
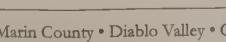
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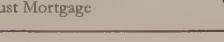
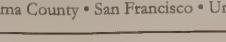
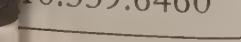
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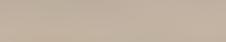
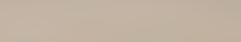
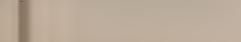
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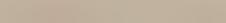
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MONTCLAIR

BUZZ

FROM PAGE B11

So when the rainy season persists, several applications are necessary. The fungicide is applied just as the new flush of leaves are about to open. Although for many homeowners, the large trees are difficult to spray hence they are rarely treated. Anthracnose rarely has a serious or damaging effect on the long-term health of the tree. It's more of a nuisance having to pick up the leaf drop and the bare branches are unsightly. In wet spring, you need to be patient. The problem solves itself, once the rainy season concludes and temperatures return to normal.

Q. Can you give me some hints on growing big pumpkins? How much water and fertilizer are necessary to increase their size?

A. Pumpkins need a large space to grow in as the vines and roots spread out wide and far. Hopefully, you have mixed in lots and lots of organic matter into the planting area. Good drainage is a must as pumpkins like plenty of moisture; otherwise, you'll find the immature pumpkins will rot on the vine.

Feed them at planting time with Dr. Earth Vegetable Food with a follow up application in eight weeks. Pumpkins produce male and female flowers so hand pollinate them when you see the female flowers form along the stem.

They are easy to identify by the bulb-like structure at the base of the flower. After the pumpkins form, pinch back the growth on the vines. This will put more energy into the existing pumpkins. I'd also raise the maturing pumpkins off the ground with a layer of straw. Rotting can occur were the pumpkins come in contact with the soil. Once they color up you can harvest them early but leave some of the stem on the pumpkins.

Q. After flowering beautifully, the apricot trees at our new house have us concerned. Branches are dying, leaves are wilting and a thick clear sap like substance is oozing from many limbs. I've cut off all the obviously diseased wood. Did I inadvertently spread the problem by pruning in January? What else can I do to save these trees?

A. Wilting leaves, oozing sap and die back shortly after the new growth emerges, are classic symptoms or indicators of root rot. There is a direct relationship between the below ground root system and the top growth it supports. When a portion of the roots dies an equal amount of the top growth is also lost. Unfortunately, it doesn't occur concurrently.

Fruit trees don't show any signs of root rot problems until months after the fact. The problem you are experiencing occurred last year. In the Bay Area, the primary causes of root rot are excessive summer moisture and clay soils that drain poorly. Established fruit trees like apricots, cherries, plums, peaches and nectarines are watered deeply once every two to three weeks. These fruit trees make lousy lawn trees. Also, we find plants that require constant summer moisture, mistakenly planted under their canopies.

The first step is to remove the dead and dying branches and water deeply but not often. After that, you just have to be patient and wait it out. Your January pruning had no effect on this problem but it could lead to another issue. Apricots are susceptible to a disease called Eutypa Dieback. This disease infects during wet damp weather before the pruning wound have a chance to callus over. With Eutypa you also get sap oozing and die back however it doesn't show up until mid-summer. To avoid this, prune your apricots in the fall anytime after Labor Day.

Q. There are brown spots in my lawn. I've pulled up some of the dead grass and found a beetle like bug in the soil. The fertilizer plus insecticide has not helped the problem. How do I get rid of the bugs?

A. It's not unusual to find bugs in turf areas and it doesn't automatically mean that they are the cause for grass to die. Actually, I

don't think they are causing the problem. It's too early for lawn insects to be active. Usually, the activity starts after several heat spells when the temperatures are in the mid 90s to low 100s and so far that hasn't occurred this year. One simple test is to grab a handful of the dead grass and tug on it. If lawn insects are feeding on it, it should separate easily from the ground as the insects separate the grass blades from the roots.

If the dead grass blades were still attached to the roots, I'd suspect lawn fungus, irrigation issues or a female dog. I would take a two-inch by 2-inch by 1-inch deep sample of the area into your favorite garden center for a second opinion.

Buzz Bertolero is Executive Vice President of Navlet's Garden Centers. His Web address is www.dirtgardener.com.

Send questions to dirgarde@aoi.com or 360 Civic Drive Ste. D, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

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bath and great kitchen remodel, loads of storage, fantastic se

of space, privacy and serenity. #40083459

www.cynthiaburke.com 510-632-2878

RECENTLY REMODELED - DON'T MISS

6125 Rosalind Ave. 2BR 1 BA. This lovely home in a desir

able location has recently been remodeled thru-out. Convenient

location! Huge living room, fireplace and within walking distanc

to Wildcat Canyon. Almost 9,000 sq. ft. lot & large

patio, property offers many possibilities. #40089471

Calvin Tran 510-632-2878

Open Sun 1-4

The Weekly Sales can be found in the Auto Section on D4.

Open July 2 & 3 from 1-4 pm
Saturday & Sunday



Albany - \$758,000
828 Curtis Street

A beautiful Albany home in a great location. It is a bright and sunny, well-maintained 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom home with approx. 1280 sq. ft. of living space. There is finished bonus space downstairs. The home is situated on a 50 x 100 level lot with room for expansion. It is within the block of Solano Ave., shops, restaurants and transportation. Close to Marin Elementary and Albany High School.

William Shaw
Broker Associate
510/524-8508
Bill@Jeans-Realty.com



Jeans Realty
Established 1962
1484 Solano Ave.
Albany, CA 94706

3 New Listings



MAGNIFICENT VIEWS
#30-Generous living space on a hilltop cul-de-sac location. Enjoy total privacy with 4 acres of luscious space. Executive office. Formal living and dining rooms, terrific high-end kitchen, adjoining family room and wonderful outdoor areas. This beautiful home is a must see! **\$2,800,000**



CHARMING
#179-Convenient 4 years new home. Much to offer located in a fast growing new development well known for style & value. Close to YMCA, bus line & shopping areas. Welcome to join.

\$695,950



RELAXED LIFE-STYLE
#194-Adult community (AGE 55+) known as leisure town. Very comfortable home with updated kitchen. This 1-level home backs up to green belt. Ideal for a sunrise stroll.

\$364,950



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Market Indicator
Last wk This wk
5.250 5.250

COMPANY	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	RATES AS OF 06/28/05	COMMENTS
E Mortgage Management 877-783-1400 DOC# 903-A628 Fees=\$1538	30-yr Fixed 5.375 6.454 45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 5.790 45	5/1 ARM* 1.750* 1.750 80	1-yr ARM* 1.000* 1.140 80	*pot neg arm; 100% refl, purch, or conceal Free approval Credit problem experts. M-F 8-8, Sat-Sun 8-4	
First Blackhawk Financial 800-798-MARY DRE# 01144055 Fees=\$1759	30-yr Fixed 5.250 5.625 0.000	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.000 5.041 0.000	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750 4.750 0.000	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.250* 4.320 30	JUMBO AND SUPER JUMBO SPECIALIST Call 7 days per week (800) 798-MARY More rates at www.marylightull.com	
Golden Gate Home Loans 877-245-5899 DOC# 6052720 Fees=\$1632	30-yr Fixed 5.260* 5.324 0.000	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.688 5.941 0.000	3/1 ARM 1.000* 1.000 30	Pick-A-Payment 1.000* 1.000 30	*700 FICO ** Pos neg arm ***PMT on \$500=\$1608	
Imperial Mortgage 800-961-2274 DRE# 01033932 Fees=\$1453	30-yr Fixed 5.125 5.330 1.000	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 5.680 1.000	3/1 ARM I/O 4.000 4.190 0.000	5/1 JUMBO ARM I/O 4.750 4.940 0.000	DON'T BE "LURED IN" BY LOW QUOTES! CALL ME FOR AN HONEST LOCKABLE RATE! FIND OUT WHY I GET TONS OF REFERRALS! RATES ARE DOWN	
Main Line Tavistock Mtge 877-878-3600 DOC# 603-A784 Fees=\$1298	30-yr Fixed 5.128 5.190 0.000	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.600 5.680 0.000	20-yr Fixed 4.675 4.810 0.000	15-yr Fixed 4.750 4.810 0.000	LOWEST RATE & FEE GUARANTEE !!! WWW.MAINLINEINTERNATIONAL.COM - OPEN 7 DAYS NO RATE LOCK FEE - NO APPLICATION FEE	
Mortgage Market 800-837-5626 DRE# 00875762 Fees=\$1875	30-yr Fixed 5.375 5.465 0.000	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 5.887 0.500	15-yr Fixed 5.026 5.026 0.000	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.417 5.417 0.000	Great Purchase, Refinance, Construction Home Equity, 100% LTV Loans Great Service. Over 25 years in business	
Saratoga Bancorp 800-935-6266 DRE# 01220326 Fees=\$1893	30-yr Fixed 5.128 5.190 0.000	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.600 5.680 0.000	15-yr Fixed 5.141 5.141 0.000	5/1 ARM call call 0.000	Call for No Fee Loans, A Credits, No Income Check Loan! Purch/Refi to 100% www.saratogabancorp.com	
Venstar Financial 866-580-6771 DRE# 01004745 Fees=\$1410	30-yr Fixed 5.250 5.301 0.000	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 5.498 1.000	7/1 ARM Jumbo 4.875 4.962 0.000	5/1 ARM 4.875 4.962 0.000	We'll beat any bank's rates! 100% financing available! 100% Equity Lines Also do Nevada/Oregon/Colorado loans	
Washington Mutual Bank 925-256-7171 Fees=\$1149	30-yr Fixed 5.128 5.190 0.000	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.600 5.680 0.000	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.026 5.026 0.000	10/1 ARM Jumbo 5.417 5.417 0.000	Purchases Close in just 7 days/NO POINTS Complimentary Pre-Approvals/NO POINTS (925) 256-7171 (866) WAMU-296	
Wells Fargo Home Mtg. 925-736-1125 Fees=\$1180	30-yr Fixed 5.128 5.190 0.000	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.600 5.680 0.000	10/1 ARM I/O 5.026 5.026 0.000	5/1 ARM I/O 5.417 5.417 0.000	PURCHASE - Fast Close - Refi - LOCAL CALL Wells Fargo Home Mtg - 925-736-1125 JUMBO, 5/1, 10/1, 30 YR - INT ONLY	
Wells Fargo Home Mtg. 866-809-1502 Fees=\$1431	30-yr Fixed 5.128 5.190 0.000	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.600 5.680 0.000	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.026 5.026 0.000	100% to 1 ML. Free Pre Approval Credit Lines to 3 ML * Purchase loan? Bank Relationship		
Absolute Mortgage Fund 888-90-HOMES DOC# 603 A776 Fees=\$1359	30-yr Fixed 5.125 5.180 0.250	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500* 5.530 0.000	15-yr Fixed 4.820 4.820 0.000	5/1 ARM 5.400 5.400 0.000	LOWEST RATES AND FEES IN THE INDUSTRY! Free Float Down Lender fees only \$399! *720+ FICO reqd; CALL NOW! 888-90-HOMES	
AimLoan.com 888-411-4246 DRE# 03052124 Fees=\$2400	30-yr Fixed 5.260 5.345250	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 5.780000	15-yr Fixed 4.930 4.930000	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.122 5.122000	Rates & Fees Online - Apply & Lock 24/7 Interest Only - Stated income Open Sat/Sun 9-2 P.M. PT	
Amerisave Mortgage Corp. 877-464-5218 DOC# 6038562 Fees=\$1223	30-yr Fixed 5.250 5.312000	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 5.780000	15-yr Fixed 4.800 4.800000	5/1 ARM 5.706 5.706000	No closing costs loans available www.amerisave.com Best rates and lowest fees guaranteed or we pay you \$300!	
Bay Area Funding 925-930-3100 Fees=\$2316	30-yr Fixed 5.250 5.456000	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.600 5.642000	1st Time 5/1 ARM 4.039 4.039000	1st Time Buyer 30-yr Fix 4.417 4.417000	**1st TIME BUYER, 5/1 ARM after subsidy *1st TIME BUYER 30 YR FIX after Fed Subsidy. Income & price limits 100%OK	
CMA Mortgage Services 800-958-5339 DRE# 01370755 Fees=\$1853	30-yr Fixed 5.000 5.1841250	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 5.5121250	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.250 4.3781250	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.625 4.7451250	OPEN SAT/SUN QUIK QUALIFIER OR NO INCOME LOANS AVAILABLE NO POINTS LOANS AVAILABLE	
Countrywide Home Loans 877-944-3400	30-yr Fixed 5.312 5.37430	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 5.78730	Pay Option ARM 5.843 5.84330	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.706 5.70630	FREE pre-approval! Refinance/2nd homes, 100% financing/no doc/stated income 10 day purchase close. CALL 888-903-9888	
ditch.com 800-616-8208 DOC# 8132004 Fees=\$1890	30-yr Fixed 5.125 5.4232000	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 5.6212000	15-yr Fixed 5.003 5.0032000	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.415 5.4152000	Se habla Espanol! Your mortgage solution. Delivered! Apply now at ditch.com	
Downey Savings & Loan 800-798-2148 Fees=\$1428	30-yr Fixed 5.260 5.3661000	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.600 5.6931826	1-mo COFI ARM* 5.634 5.6341000	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.341 5.3411000	Direct lender, 45 yrs experience; fixed & adjust rate mtgs; *Pot. neg amort. Apply online at www.downneysavings.com	

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Rates based on \$175,000 loan for single family residence. Jumbo rates (loans in excess of \$359,650) based on \$400,000 loan. All rates are believed to be accurate but cannot be guaranteed and are subject to change without notice. Minimum downpayment requirements and other restrictions may apply. Closing costs may vary. Contact each company for details. Points include origination and discount fees. APR = annual percentage rate and is calculated by each company - includes costs to obtain loan and private mortgage insurance if required. Lock-in lock period. ARM=adjustable rate mortgage. Companies pay a fee to be in this Guide. *Avg 30 yr fixed conforming with 0 points. Fees are estimated costs based on a \$175,000 purchase money loan and may vary from loan to loan. These are not inclusive of all costs and do not include points, prepaid interest, title insurance or escrow items. Click on "Fees" in "Current Mortgage Rates" section of website & contact each company for details. Copyright 2003 INFOTRAK National Data Services and Knight Publishing Co.

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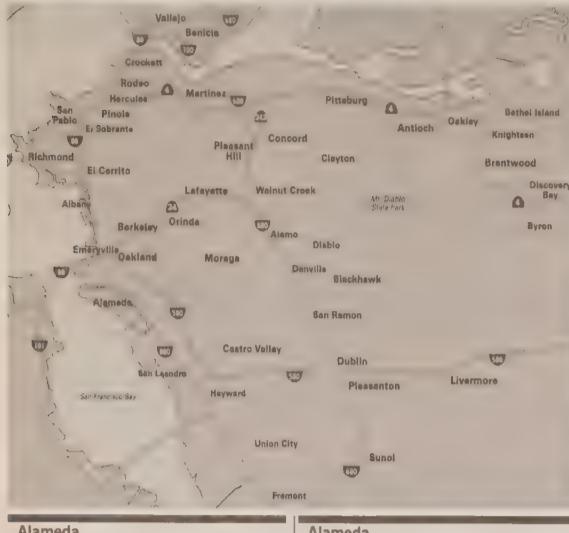
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Alameda

\$1,200,000 1336 Sherman St. 4+BD/1.5 BA
Sat/Sun 2-4 Gold Coast 510-814-4713
Harbor Bay Realty Russ Grant

\$1,550,000 3225 Fernside Blvd. 2 homes on 1 lot
Sat 1-4 510-508-1263
Kane & Associates John McNulty

\$2,598,000 26 Castlebar Pl. 4+BD/5.5 BA
Sat/Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Is. 510-814-4800/814-4846
Harbor Bay Realty Janet Iverson / Janice Payne

\$375,000 2025 Otis Dr. #A 1 BD/1 BA
Sat 2-4 510-205-9551, 800-784-5869
Ron Bang Realty Ron Bang

\$389,000 339 Broadway #107 2 BD/1 BA
Sun 2-4 East End 510-814-4885
Harbor Bay Realty Jeff Goodman

\$399,500 339 Broadway #302 2 BD/1 BA
Sun 2-4 East End 510-814-4711
Harbor Bay Realty Judy Jacobs

\$399,950 2000 Central Ave. Unit L 2 BD/1 BA
Sat 2-5 510-522-8585
Alameda Realty

\$475,000 2101 Shoreline Dr. #260 2 BD/1.5 BA
Sun 2-4 The Willows 510-508-1999
Alameda Realty Carol Burnett

\$525,000 3406 Brithorn Ln. 3 BD/1.5 BA
Sat/Sun 2-4 Bay Farm Island 510-882-5223
Harbor Bay Realty Lena Sazo

\$535,000 388 Anchor Way 2 BD/1.5 BA
Sat/Sun 2-4 510-749-1138
Gallagher & Lindsey Virginia Ambrosini

\$535,000 388 Anchor Way 2 BD/1.5 BA
Raven's Cove 510-523-5664
Gallagher & Lindsey Virginia Ambrosini

\$579,000 1626 Broadway 3 BD/2 BA
Sat/Sun 2-4 510-828-3118
Kane & Associates Kathie & Patrick Nella

\$589,000 1190 Brown St. 2 BD/2 BA
Sat/Sun 2-4 Bay Farm Island 510-814-4897
Harbor Bay Realty Eunice Edwards

\$595,000 452 Haight Ave. 2+BD/1+BA
Sun 2-4 510-748-1124
Gallagher & Lindsey Kathy Ghiselli

\$599,000 1217 Porta Ballena 2 BD/2.5 BA
Sun 2-4 Ballena Bay 510-814-4821
Harbor Bay Realty Elaine Millin

\$599,000 1818 9th St 2BD/1BA
Sat-Sun 2-4 510-748-5410
Gold Coast R.E. Agt Dianne Richmond

\$599,000 1843 8th St. 2 BD/2 BA
Sun 2-4 Central 510-814-4897
Harbor Bay Realty Brooke Abbas

\$669,500 1713 Oak Street 3+BD/1.5 BA
Sat & Sun 2-4 510-748-1108
Gallagher & Lindsey Bill & Gisele Bissett

\$674,000 3292 Washington St. 3 BD/2 BA
Sat 2-4/ Sun 2-4 East End 510-814-4861/814-4857
Harbor Bay Realty Susan Battaglia/Carole Kim

\$679,000 1539 High Street 3 BD/2 BA
Sat/Sun 2-4 510-523-0746
Kane & Associates Mindy Hart

\$679,500 2604 Otis Drive 3 BD/1 BA
Sun 2-4 East End 510-814-4822
Harbor Bay Realty Jean Powers

\$718,000 186 Orr Rd. 3BD/2.5BA
Sun 1-4 Bay Farm Island 510-305-7508
Help-U-Sell Alameda Homes Steven Potter

\$729,000 1726 Lafayette St. 3+BD/2 BA
Sun 1-5 Central 510-305-7508
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\$729,000 880 Portola Ave. 2 BD/2.5 BA
Sun 2-4 510-521-5210
Centennial Real Estate Linda Larkin

\$739,000 1015 Taylor Ave. 3 BD/2.5 BA
Sat/Sun 2-4 510-748-1148
Gallagher & Lindsey Pacita Dimacali

\$790,000 8 Cerruti Ct. 3 BD/2.5 BA
Sun 2-4 510-865-2800
Kane & Associates Lisa Lawley

\$799,000 2047 Whitehall Pl. 4 BD/2 BA
Sat/Sun 2-4 South Shore 510-814-4810
Harbor Bay Realty Jane Friedrich

\$799,000 342 Pacific Ave. 3 BD/1 BA
Sat/Sun 2-4 510-748-1166
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\$835,000 1034 Pearl St. 3BD/2.5BA
Open Sat. 10-4:30 Preferred Real Estate 510-886-5300

\$849,000 1409 9th Street 4 BD/2 BA
Sun 2-4 Central 510-814-4819
Harbor Bay Realty Nancy & Chuck Blanch

\$869,000 1312 San Antonio Ave. 3+BD/2 BA
Sun 2-4 Gold Coast 510-910-5204
Alameda Realty Vince San Nicolas

\$885,000 2009 San Antonio Ave. 3 Units
Sat/Sun 2-4 Central 510-814-4709
Harbor Bay Realty Marilyn Schumacher

\$895,000 3012 Bayview Dr. 3 BD/2.5 BA
Sun 2-4 East End 510-814-4710
Harbor Bay Realty Walt Jacobs

\$896,500 633 Rock Isle 3 BD/2.5 BA
Sun 2-4 South Shore 510-814-4872
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\$915,000 1312 San Antonio Ave. 3+BD/2 BA
Sun 2-4 Gold Coast 510-910-5204
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ALAMEDA



1713 OAK STREET \$669,500

Central Alameda Open Sat & Sun 2-4
This 3+ bedroom and 1.5 bath home shows pride of ownership. This home supports a newer foundation, roof, gutters/downspouts, freshly painted throughout, new carpeting upstairs and the grounds have been freshly landscaped. Has a brick fireplace in living room. Close to transportation and Park Street. Move-in condition!

www.GallagherandLindsey.com

Bill & Griselda Bissett 510-748-1108



1015 TAYLOR AVENUE \$739,000

West End Open Sat & Sun 2-4
Attic expansion adds 3rd bedroom, 2nd bath, bonus rooms. Many architectural details including high ceilings, tall windows, formal rooms, wood floors. Includes high basement for future expansion. Hot tub. Deck. 6100 sq ft lot.

www.GallagherandLindsey.com

Patricia Dimacal 510-748-1148

The Hankels' 510-748-1148



3811 ANCHOR WAY \$535,000

East End Open Sat & Sun 2-4:30
Seldom-available Raven's Cove town home! Well maintained town home with 2 bedrooms and 1 1/2 baths. Features include updated kitchen & baths, spacious & bright rooms, fireplace, laundry area with washer and dryer, private patio with deck, and 2-car garage. Raven's Cove is nestled adjacent to the bay in Alameda's prestigious East End. Walk to shopping, transportation and the beach. Amenities include greenbelts, walking paths, clubhouse & pool.

www.GallagherandLindsey.com

Virginia Ambrosini 510-748-1138



342 PACIFIC AVENUE \$799,000

West End Open Sat & Sun 2-4:30
This property is on the market for the very first time. 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, full size basement and a 2-car detached garage. Huge corner lot and many elegant architectural details.

www.GallagherandLindsey.com

Roland & Cogul Basora 510-748-1166



1905 ALAMEDA AVENUE \$1,590,000

Central Alameda By Appointment Only
This impressive home offers you the charm of the past combined with modern upgrades that "Retained Grandeur of Turn of the Century Living". Plenty of room for entertainment. Located in Central Alameda, this Victorian is in excellent condition, with meticulous attention to detail and craftsmanship. Beautifully restored Eastlake Mansion, originally constructed in 1884, now featuring 5 bedrooms and 3 full baths, with income producing potential.

www.1905AlamedaAve.com

Donna & Dave Hankel 510-748-1184



3245 ENCINAL AVENUE \$728,000

East End CALL AGENT
Newly remodeled home with 4 bedrooms and 2 full baths. New foundation and updated electrical. A loft, beautiful hardwood floors & staircase. New interior and exterior paint. This home is a must see!

www.GallagherandLindsey.com

Eric Tam 510-748-1135

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REALTORS®

Surprising Confessions from a 40-year Realtor

A few weeks ago I ran into an old acquaintance that was very proud of recently selling his home himself without engaging a professional. On further inquiry, I discovered the property had sold for close to \$100,000 under market. Some may say I have a bias, and this would be true. I have been representing buyers and sellers in real estate transactions as a Realtor for 40 years because I strongly believe in the service I provide. My question to you: Why would you even consider selling your largest financial investment without a professional? Yes, it can be done, but it's not very smart.

To be fair, there are discount services out there that will get you a decent amount of exposure. But this is only one ingredient to a successful sale. I believe the best results are provided by a Realtor with strong negotiation skills, a thorough marketing plan, essential knowledge of all the current legal requirements and contracts (so you will not, down the road, be at risk for a lawsuit), and the knowledge on

how to get the best price for your home.

In selling my own property in the past, some may be surprised to find out that I have always hired an agent to represent me. It is extremely important

In negotiations, to have an unbiased professional representing you, someone at arm's length who can point out the positives of your property without being self-serving and can offer good advice when it comes to counteracting, accepting, or rejecting an offer. Would you represent yourself in a courtroom? You could save money if you did, but would it be worth the consequences? I strongly believe, representing yourself in the sale of your largest financial asset, is just not worth the consequences.

If you own a home in the bay area it means you've worked hard and invested well. When it's time to sell, enlist one of our professional Realtors and get the best price for your home. You deserve it.

Don Lindsey
President / Broker
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2394 MARINER SQUARE #B-13 \$875,000

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Why not vacation at home? This wonderful water view 2+ bedroom 2 bath floating home boasts all the conveniences you want in a home. Including updated kitchen, family room, office and laundry but you may find it hard to leave the upper deck to enjoy any of them. Don't miss out on this beautiful getaway.

www.GallagherandLindsey.com

Anne DeBardeleben 510-748-1175

Justine Francis 510-748-1164

ALAMEDA



2629 EAGLE AVENUE \$925,000

East End By Appointment Only
Just listed large corner lot triplex. Located in the East End, these units have 3 garages, large basement, new roof, exterior paint, sewer lateral and much, much more.

www.GallagherandLindsey.com

Jack Cooley 510-748-1109

ALAMEDA



216 SWEET ROAD \$1,250,000

Harbor Bay By Appointment Only
Absolutely spectacular views of SF Bay from multiple rooms through 8ft sliders. Beautiful Marble floors in living room and kitchen. Granite counter tops in remodeled kitchen and master bath. Must see spiral staircase and spectacular marble chandelier.

www.SanFranciscoBayView.com

Mario & Wendy Mariani 510-748-1174

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OAKLAND



6151 OAKDALE AVENUE \$595,000

Millenium Coming Soon
Come wake to the sounds of songbirds in the lovely Millmont neighborhood. The rural setting can be enjoyed from the expansive front deck. The home features breathtaking views, remodeled kitchen, huge game room (ready for expansion), new carpet and paint.

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PATTERSON



510 LAGUNARIA LANE \$620,000

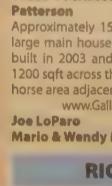
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Fabulous 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bath Term Model home. Remodeled kitchen & master bath, hardwood floors, new carpet. Fireplace & patio deck retreat. Charming accents and tastefully decorated, this home shows pride of ownership & is a wonderful example of Baywood Village living.

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1203 MELVILLE SQUARE #114 \$299,000

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It's ready, set & go! This Marina Bay 1 bedroom 1 bath condo is just waiting for you. You move-in ready with fresh paint, new carpet, linoleum and appliances. Close to shopping, parks, easy access to freeway and BART.

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Anne DeBardeleben 510-748-1175

Neighborhood Focus: WEST BERKELEY

Situated directly across from the Golden Gate Bridge and bordered by Albany, Oakland, and Emeryville; West Berkeley has always been a socially, economically, and ethnically diverse community. Particularly, Denny Abrahams 4th Street pedestrian-friendly shopping mecca, which is a fabulous mix of fine dining establishments, specialty stores, low and high-tech companies, and brightly-colored Victorians, some of which date back to the 1880's back when this neighborhood was known as "Ocean View". With the recent addition of the bike/pedestrian bridge crossing at University, West Berkeley residents and visitors can enjoy easy access to the Marina from Aquatic Park.

Selling your Mixed-Use Property?

Eric Tam is working with a very motivated client that is looking for a retail or mixed-use property. They have already written a number of all-cash offers and would love to find an exciting commercial property in a busy shopping district, to buy. If you know of a property that fits this description and may be up for sale soon, please contact Eric Tam at (510) 748-1135.

Eric has a buyer for you!



SPORTS

• Friday, July 1, 2005 •

Section C

St. Mary's Murrey competing for spot on national team

By Ricardo Sanchez Jr.

STAFF WRITER



Tarah Murrey

She has been playing volleyball since she was in the fourth grade.

At 15 years old, Murrey, an outside hitter at St. Mary's High School, could still be growing.

It must be in the genes.

Murrey was recently selected to participate in the USA Volleyball 2005 Girls National High Performance Camp. The names of the 27 players were announced on June 10.

The camp, which prepares some of its players for the 2007 USA Girls Youth National Team, will be held in Austin, Texas, on July 14-19. That team will participate in the NORECA Zonal Qualifier tournament for a chance to play in the 2008 World Championships.

"I love volleyball," Murrey said. "Just the little things, like the perfect pass, stuff like that. I used to play basketball but it wasn't for me."

Murrey parted with basketball's free-throw line and embraced volleyball, a decision which made sense if only because she had been playing vol-

leyball since the fourth grade. Murrey's agility makes her a top prospect. She's a power hitter, and despite her height, she can play all the way around, including the back row.

It is on the back line where most front court players' weaknesses are exposed. But not Murrey, who gets the same kick out of making a great dig as she does on delivering a game-breaking kill.

That type of attitude toward the game is music to coaches' ears and it may have been what attracted USA coach Kim Jagd of UCLA to Murrey at the USA High Performance Camp tryouts

in Reno, the site of one of 23 tryouts across the country during March and April.

At the camp, officials measured Murrey's vertical leap and her height and put her through drills.

Despite making the camp the last two years, Murrey had to try out again.

"I felt like I didn't play that good," Murrey said. "I wasn't hitting like I usually do."

It didn't affect the decision to choose her from a rich pool of talent from across the country.

Only Elizabeth Prang, a 5-9 setter from Los Gatos, and Katherine Douglas, a 6-foot-out-

side hitter from Woodside, were selected from Northern California.

During the summer Murrey plays with the Golden Bears volleyball club and the team will travel to Uta next week to participate in the Junior Olympics.

As for college, Murrey said she has already received some interest from USC and it's a school she would love to attend, although she has three seasons of high school volleyball left to play.

"My real goal is to play college volleyball ... But I'm not thinking about the future, I'm just playing for now," Murrey said.

ROWING

ROWING

The Oakland Strokes girls varsity eight crew, which includes Berkeley graduate Joanna Jacob, were just a few seconds off the course record in winning the Henley Women's Regatta June 18-19 in England.

After winning the U.S. Rowing Junior National Championship in Cincinnati on June 11, coach Derek Jones guided the Strokes to the regatta victory.

For the five seniors in the boat — stroke Ashley Jones (Skyline High School/University of Michigan), Sarah Moore (Piedmont/Harvard University), Lauren Hofmayr (Miramonte/Stanford), Tory Kaso (St. Joseph's/CLA), and Jacob (Berkeley/Brown University) — this was their final race before they head for college in the fall.

They finished an undefeated season and careers that included two national championships and numerous major regatta wins.

Byrnes will be going to Connecticut to help coach the junior women's national program.

The Strokes needed to adjust their technique and strategy to the Henley 1,500-meter course, a distance that is 500 meters less than the Strokes' normal race. As a result of the draw for the Peabody Cup, the Strokes had to row two races on June 18 to get to the June 19 semifinals and finals.

In the first of their races the Strokes defeated King's School Worcester by three to four lengths of open water while dropping their stroke rate in order to conserve energy after the race was no longer in doubt. In the afternoon the Strokes defeated St. Georges College in a virtual repeat of their first race.

Their victory put them into the semifinals against The Lawrenceville School crew from New Jersey, a crew who had won the U.S. high school championship this year.

Advancing to the semifinals along with the Strokes and Lawrenceville were The Kent School from Connecticut and Pymble Women's College, the Australian junior national champions.

The first semifinal race saw The Kent School upset Pymble in a very close race.

The Strokes then dominated Lawrenceville, winning by three lengths while dropping their stroke rate to prepare for the final. The Peabody Cup Final started only 2½ hours after the semifinal.

As the final time approached it was apparent that the weather would be a factor with the crews having to row into a gusting headwind, as well as having to row against the current.

The Strokes started on the "bucks" side of the river, the side that local rowers believe is harder to handle in the wind during the early part of the race.

The Kent School, starting on the "bucks" side, started hard and the race was a virtual dead heat for the first 500 meters.

However, as the Strokes neared the "enclosure" area, the Strokes had opened up a lead which they continued to improve on until they won in a time of 5:07, only a few seconds off the course record, and their best time of the regatta.

Information provided by Steven Schiller.

HOW TO REACH US

Results, reports and press releases on local sports teams, athletes, organizations and events can be e-mailed to the following address:

hillsports@ccitimes.com

Representatives from organizations within the circulation area of the Alameda Journal, Berkeley Voice, El Cerrito Journal, Montclair and Piedmont are encouraged to submit items to this address.

For questions, please call 510-748-1662 or 510-262-2738.



JOANNA JHANASDAFF

ALBANY'S DANIEL SUPPLE pitched a three-hitter and struck out 11 against Antioch West in a 6-0 victory.

Albany gets past the first round

■ 11-year-old team is impressive in a 6-0 win over Antioch West in the District 4 International Tournament

By Phil Jensen

STAFF WRITER

The Albany 11-year-old All-Star baseball team dominated Antioch West 6-0 in the first round of the California District 4 International Tournament on Monday at University Village South Field in Albany.

Albany pitcher Daniel Supple pitched a three-hitter and struck out 11. Seven of the strikeouts were in the first three innings. Teammate Paul Kennedy had three RBI, including a two-run

single in the first inning that gave Albany a 2-0 lead.

In the second inning Albany scored three more runs on RBI singles by Jesse Santos and Kennedy, and a sacrifice fly by Supple. Albany scored the final run of the game in the fourth inning. Luke Rose walked and pinch-runner Jacob Kermish-Wells advanced home on three wild pitches. Nick Lamb, Albany's leadoff batter, scored two runs in the game, as did Rose.

Albany's defense was also top-notch. Second baseman Kermish-Wells produced a spectacular diving catch in shallow right field in the third inning for the third out. In the sixth inning, right fielder Garrett Freeberg caught a long fly ball for the first out, shortstop Lamb caught a line

drive for the second out and the final out was produced when Kermish-Wells handled a tough grounder and threw to first baseman Rose to end the game.

Results of Wednesday's game against Alameda #2 were unavailable at press time.

JUNIOR ALL-STARS

The Albany Little League Junior League All-Stars got off to a fast start in their District 4 second-round game with their North Oakland Little League counterparts Tuesday evening at Caldecott Field. But North Oakland rallied for five runs in the fifth inning en route to a 9-6 come-from-behind win.

"They can hit well," Albany manager Anthony Freeman said of the North Oakland All-Stars. "They got a lot of seeing-eye hits

that went through the holes. We didn't make the plays on them."

There was nothing "seeing eye" about the hit that led off the bottom of the fifth inning, however.

With his team trailing 4-3, North Oakland's Eric Jaffe quickly tied the score by blasting a home run over the center-field fence.

Jaffe's home run began an onslaught for North Oakland. Adam Rosenbloom had a two run single and Charlie Sauter and Danny Passmore also had RBI singles, giving North Oakland an 8-4 lead.

Albany jumped to a 3-1 lead through two innings behind the pitching of Dylan Mattingly and

See BASEBALL, Page 2

NOW PLAYING

Below are capsule reviews of movies playing at area theaters. Reviewers are Mary F. Pols, Times; Robert W. Butler, Chris Hewitt, Steven Rea and Caren Rickey, Knight Ridder; Brad Kava, Bruce Newman, San Jose Mercury News; David Germain, Christy Lemire and Ben Nuckles, Associated Press; Anita Gates, Dave Kifer, Ned Martel, Elyse Mitchell and A.O. Scott, New York Times; Jami Bernard and Jack Mathews, New York Daily News; Phoebe Flowers, South Florida Sun-Sentinel; David Kronke, Bob Strauss, Glenn Whipp, Los Angeles Daily News; Carla Chocano, Kevin Crust, Manohla Dargis, Kevin Thomas and Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times; Ed Bark, Nancy Churnin, Gary Down, Tom Maustad, Chris Vognar, Philip Wunch, Dallas Morning News; Jay Boyar and Roger Moore, Orlando Sentinel; Carla Meyer, Sacramento Bee; Ty Burr, Wesley Morris, Boston Globe; Ann Hornaday, Stephen Hunter, Michael O'Sullivan, Desson Thomson, Washington Post.

"THE ADVENTURES OF SHARKBOY AND LAVAGIRL IN 3-D": In this 3-D adventure, karate-kicking Sharkboy and fire-spewing LavaGirl enlist misfit Max to save their magical land, now controlled by an evil presence and his henchman, Mr. Electric (George Lopez). Unfortunately, the film's story was dreamed up by director Robert Rodriguez's young son, and although Dad gave the screenplay a final polish, it's still clearly the work of a child — full of imagination, but utterly lacking in character development, pacing and narrative construction. — R. Butler. (PG; mild action, some rude humor.) 1 hour, 25 minutes. D

"APRES VOUS": In this French comedy, Daniel Auteuil plays a waiter who stops a man from committing suicide and then feels obligated to solve all of his problems. He discovers that being a Good Samaritan has its price. Intermittently charming and peppered with a couple of hilarious scenes, but ultimately the premise wears very thin. — M. Pols. (R; language.) 1 hour, 50 minutes. C+

"BATMAN BEGINS": Director Christopher Nolan supplies the back-story behind not just the Batmobile, but the very psyche of the Caped Crusader. The story starts slowly and temporarily gets bogged down in psychological drivel before turning into a very dark and fun action movie. Christian Bale is a natural, just weird enough to be the best Batman yet, and the strong supporting cast includes a lovely turn by Michael Caine as the trusted butler Alfred, as well as Morgan Freeman as gadget man Lucius Fox. — M. Pols. (PG-13; intense action, violence, disturbing images and some thematic elements.) 2

hours, 10 minutes. B+

"BEWITCHED": Disappointing, but what did we expect? The sitcom's based on was magic in its own time, and though director Nora Ephron, who also doctor the script, tries to inject new energy, she's defeated by a plot that has nowhere to go. Moreover, Nicole Kidman, channeling Meg Ryan cuteness and doing a breathy Marilyn Monroe voice, is nowhere near as endearing as our beloved Samantha. Will Ferrell has some fun moments. — M. Pols. (PG-13; some language, including sex and drug references, partial nudity.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. C

"CATERINA IN THE BIG CITY": This small, sassy, compassionate film invites the audience to recognize the universal in its sharp, perceptive view of contemporary Roman life. Caterina, a lovely, intelligent teenager from the provinces, winds up, through the efforts of her father, in a vast and venerable school in Rome, whose students' parents are among the country's elite. — K. Thomas. (Not rated; some language, sensuality, adult themes; in Italian with subtitles.) 1 hour, 46 minutes. A-

"CINDERELLA MAN": An out-of-season treat. Russell Crowe is in Oscar-worthy form as the humble boxer Jim Braddock, who, like Seabiscuit, provided inspiration for Americans during the Depression. The film was directed by Ron Howard, whose interest in inspiration tends to grate. Yes, this is, like "A Beautiful Mind," an inspirational story, but Howard excels in telling of the material that sticks and, thankfully, it's never maudlin. Paul Giamatti is winning in the role of Braddock's trainer, with Renee Zellweger as the boxer's devoted wife. — M. Pols. (PG-13; intense boxing violence, some language.) 2 hours, 22 minutes. A-

"CRASH": In the course of 24 hours, a group of Los Angeles residents wrestle with the demons of racism. Writer/director Paul Haggis' writer of "Million Dollar Baby" wants to provoke a serious discourse, a noble goal. But the movie is heavy-handed, and, despite some brilliant scenes and strong acting from a great ensemble, is riddled with mistakes, particularly coincidences that border on the absurd. Ultimately, Haggis insults his audience by assuming he has to instruct us on everything about racism, as if merely to be alive in America today weren't already a primer. Still, flaws and all, well worth seeing. — M. Pols. (R; language, sexual content, some language.) 1 hour, 40 minutes. B-

"5x2": Marion and Giles sit in a lawyer's office, calmly listening to the terms of their divorce, then repair to a hotel room for one final bout of bad

sex. This is the story of a couple's relationship, told backward from their divorce to their courtship. Director Francois Ozon ("Swimming Pool"), who also doctor the script, tries to inject new energy, she's defeated by a plot that has nowhere to go. Moreover, Nicole Kidman, channeling Meg Ryan cuteness and doing a breathy Marilyn Monroe voice, is nowhere near as endearing as our beloved Samantha. Will Ferrell has some fun moments. — M. Pols. (PG-13; some language, including sex and drug references, partial nudity.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. C

"HAPPILY EVER AFTER": Everyone may be miserable in this funny, raunchy, unexpectedly profound tale of two married men and their bachelor friend, but the joke and the tragedy is that they don't have to be. The mysterious fickleness of men is the dominant subject, and the movie is at its unerring best when it nails the separate lives of people who live together. Things so on to long, with one or two false peaks before an impishly ambiguous ending. — T. Burr. (Not rated; language, adult sexuality; in French with subtitles.) 1 hour, 40 minutes. B+

"HEIGHTS": This ensemble drama, set during one day in Manhattan, focuses on an engaged couple who probably shouldn't get married. As predictable as the process of unraveling connections and secrets is, the movie is clever and absorbing enough to overcome its familiar structure. Plus, performances from the marvelous Glenn Close as a drama diva, Elizabeth Banks as her daughter and James Marsden hold our attention. Look for Rufus Wainwright in a languidly entertaining cameo. — M. Pols. (R; language, brief sexuality and nudity.) 1 hour, 33 minutes. B

"HERBIE: FULLY LOADED": Lindsay Lohan plays the famed VW Bug's new owner, Maggie Peyton, a recent college graduate with fantasies of being a NASCAR driver. The film floats by on a pleasant cloud of nostalgia, partly for the Herbie some of us loved as kids, partly for the lost youth of Lohan, seen here in all her curvy, red-headed loveliness before her recent transformation to blonde stick figure. — M. Pols. (G) 1 hour, 35 minutes. B-

"THE HONEYMOONERS": Despite a valiant attempt to bring the Kramdens and Nortons into the 21st century with a new twist — an all-black cast — this remake of the 1950s sitcom still feels woefully outdated. Do we really want to sit through the incessant and inane bickering of the Kramdens or, for that matter, watch Ralph (Cedric the Entertainer) embroiled in a series of unfunny quests to get rich quick? Mike Epps makes a sweet Ed Norton and John Leguizamo extracts the precious few laughs in this dull enterprise. — M. Pols. (PG-13; some innuendo and rude humor.) 1 hour, 29 minutes. D

"HOWL'S MOVING CASTLE": This animated film, which boasts emotional depth and mind-bending visuals, is mostly for adults. But by all means take the kids, even though they may have a hard time following the plot. The wizard Howl (Christian Bale) lives in an ambulatory home with a door that opens into any number of extra, including both sides of an ominously brewing war. Along the way, Howl's haunt picks up a straggler, Sophie (Emily Mortimer), a youngster transformed into an elderly woman who manages to help end the war, and reclaim Howl's lost soul and her own innocence. Other voice artists include Lauren Bacall and Billy Crystal. — D. Kronke. (PG; frightening images, brief mild language.) 1 hour, 58 minutes. B+

"KICKING & SCREAMING": Will Ferrell's performance as a coach who whips a team of pre-adolescent soccer misfits into shape is bright enough to light up an overly familiar feel-good story. The actor has the ability to generate sudden flashes of humor, such as when his character, a reluctant youth league soccer coach, is experiencing long-suppressed rage at his father (Robert Duvall), a bullying man who coaches a far more successful squad. — M. O'Sullivan. (PG; crude humor, language.) 1 hour, 35 minutes. B

"LADIES IN LAVENDER": A meditation on loneliness and missed opportunities that urges us, gently, to live a little. The great actresses Judi Dench and Maggie Smith play elderly sisters who discover a young Polish man (Daniel Bruhl) washed up on the shore near their Cornwall cottage sometime between the Great Wars.

Each becomes possessive of him and they bicker mightily over his care. With Natascha McElhone as a beautiful Russian artist who encroaches on their territory. — M. Pols. (R; language, violence, sexual content, crude humor.) 1 hour, 40 minutes. D

"LAND OF THE DEAD": If a zombie went after Donald Trump, whose side would you be on? It's a tricky question, the kind on which George Romero's thrilling, intelligent shocker hinges. Yes, it's gruesome, exciting and grimly funny, but mostly the film sticks with you because of its clever subtext: the human survivors are mostly haves, walled up in a swank skyscraper, and the zombies are have-nots, tired of toiling to make the rich richer. — C. Hewitt. (R; gruesome violence, strong language, topless scenes.) 1 hour, 33 minutes. B+

"LAYER CAKE": Another British movie about a gangster itching to get out of the business, stymied by "one last job." Fast-paced and glamorous in the most boring way, its chief reason for being is as a showcase for Daniel Craig, a potential new James Bond. Given that he keeps us semi-

interested in a tired bit of formula, he may have what that job requires. — M. Pols. (R; strong brutal violence, sexuality, nudity, pervasive language, drug use.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. C-

"THE LONGEST YARD": An eighth-grade sense of humor isn't necessarily a horrible thing, but when you combine that with willful stupidity and laziness behind the camera, you get this painfully unnecessary remake. The film, about a former NFL star (originally Burt Reynolds, Adam Sandler this time) who goes to prison and organizes a team of convicts to play football against the sadistic guards, takes every joke and exaggerates it until it's no longer funny. With Chris Rock. — C. Vognar. (PG-13; language, violence, sexual content, crude humor.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. B+

"MAD HOT BALLROOM": This documentary follows several teams of pre-adolescent student dancers from New York as they train for the nerve-racking competition that caps the American Ballroom Theater's "Dancing Classrooms" program. There's inherent drama built into any contest, and the filmmakers make the most of the fact — without milking it for cheap sentiment — that there will not just be winners, but losers. — M. O'Sullivan. (PG; some mild references to sex and violence.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. B+

"MR. & MRS. SMITH": Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie face off in this high-gloss, high-caliber domestic squabble. Husband and wife are both as-sassins, but it's only after John Smith tries to kill the same bad guy his wife is gunning for that they learn each other's secret. The great screen chemistry between Pitt and Jolie and the movie's treatment of marriage as the ultimate form of combat makes it the entertaining bauble it is. — B. Newman. (PG-13; violence, sex, partial nudity.) 1 hour, 59 minutes. B

OPENING TODAY

"MARCH OF THE PENGUINS" (G)

This documentary shows the extraordinary ordeal Emperor penguins go through each year to mate. Narrated by Morgan Freeman.

"ME AND YOU AND EVERYONE WE KNOW" (R)

A shoe salesman and a video artist forge an unusual connection in this quirky Sundance favorite from writer/director Miranda July.

"REBOUND" (PG)

Martin Lawrence plays a college basketball coach whose bad temper gets him banned from the game. Then he starts coaching a hapless junior high team.

"YES" (R)

This love story between an American woman (Joan Allen) and a Middle Eastern man (Simon Abkarian) is told in iambic pentameter by writer/director Sally Potter.

lemurs and face Alex the lion's emerging carnivorous instincts. — R. Butler. (PG; mild language, crude humor and some thematic elements.) 1 hour, 25 minutes. C+

"MAD HOT BALLROOM": This documentary follows several teams of pre-adolescent student dancers from New York as they train for the nerve-racking competition that caps the American Ballroom Theater's "Dancing Classrooms" program. There's inherent drama built into any contest, and the filmmakers make the most of the fact — without milking it for cheap sentiment — that there will not just be winners, but losers. — M. O'Sullivan. (PG; some mild references to sex and violence.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. B+

"MR. & MRS. SMITH": Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie face off in this high-gloss, high-caliber domestic squabble. Husband and wife are both as-sassins, but it's only after John Smith tries to kill the same bad guy his wife is gunning for that they learn each other's secret. The great screen chemistry between Pitt and Jolie and the movie's treatment of marriage as the ultimate form of combat makes it the entertaining bauble it is. — B. Newman. (PG-13; violence, sex, partial nudity.) 1 hour, 59 minutes. B

Play

FROM PAGE C8

"It's about family and love and honesty and growing up," Ortega continues. "You can write a little farce that puts a smile on your face, and that's great, but this play has a message as well, but without being too obvious about it."

Thunderbabe's over-the-hill superhero premise may be familiar, but the gags are fresh. For instance, the Golden Falcon's sidekick, a now-grown Finchboy, struggles with extreme anxiety. "I was never an action figure," says Frederik Goris grumpily, the man behind the spandex of the neurotic sidekick. Finchboy has been in therapy for the last 14 years. He has a lot of 3x5 affirmation cards he whips out when he gets agitated," says Goris.

In his too-short yellow and green uniform, Finchboy states bravely, "I believe in myself, I have many talents, I know how to fix pudding from scratch."

"And they go downhill from there," says Goris. "The final one is I'm worthless. I may not be the best, but darn it, I'm not as bad as some!"

The Golden Falcon and Finchboy make their getaways in the Falcon Craft, which runs on nitroglycerin and petroleum jelly. "Acceleration is phenomenal, but it's extremely volatile," says Goris.

Thunderbabe's superpower is her Shattervoice. Says Fagone: "She was a Home Ec major with a minor in voice." Thunderbabe belts out Broadway showtunes so forcefully, she can knock

IF YOU GO

■ WHAT: Thunderbabe

■ WHERE: Altarena Playhouse, 1409 High St., Alameda

■ WHEN: 8 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays, July 9 at 2 p.m.; and Sundays, July 3, 10 and 17 at 2 p.m. Special "Author Talkback" following the Sunday matinee on July 3

■ HOW MUCH: \$15 general admission and \$12 for seniors and students

■ INFO: 510-523-1553 or www.altarena.org

things down. "But nothing after 1922 or she could be sued. Only stuff in the public domain," says Fagone. "And her husband's an attorney, so she ought to know."

Thunderbabe has an evil villainess, a Pulverizing Pistol, Destructive Juice, and even an original score by composer Donald Tieck. Not to mention tight suits.

Quips Ortega: "High heels and women fighting? What's not to like?"

Fagone feels lucky to have her play come to life this way. She hopes people will give Thunderbabe a try. "It's a feel-good, laugh-out-loud show," she says. "And a reminder that there's nothing more super heroic in life than a super mom."

Just as I'm leaving, Fagone says, "Hey, you haven't asked us what it's like to be in spandex!"

Suzanne LaFetra wouldn't be caught dead in a unitard. Contact her at suzlafera@yahoo.com

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 •George A. Romero's Land of the Dead (R) 12:05, 2:20, 4:40, 7:50, 9:55.

Castro Theatre
 429 Castro St., San Francisco 415-621-6120
 •Ladies in Lavender (PG-13) 1:40, 4:40, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45.

Shattuck Cinemas
 2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-464-5980
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Opera Plaza Cinema
 3519 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette 925-283-7997
 •Cinderella Man (PG-13) 1:45, 2:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15.

United Artists Emery Bay
 6330 Christie Ave, Emeryville 510-420-0107
 Call for movie showtimes

Central Contra Costa

Renaissance Orinda Theatre
 4 Orinda Theatre Sq., Orinda 925-254-9060
 •Batman Begins (PG-13) 1, 4:15, 7:30.

United Artists Berkeley 7
 2274 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-843-1487
 •Batman Begins (PG-13) 12:45, 1:30, 4:35, 7:30, 9:45.

United Artists Galaxy 4
 1285 Sutter St., San Francisco 415-369-6200
 •Batman Begins (PG-13) 11:50, 12:50, 3:20, 4:30, 5:50, 7:30, 9:10, 10:50.

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THE FRENCH CONNECTION By JOE DIPIETRO / Edited by WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

- 1 Georgia state wildflower
- 2 Georgia neighbor
- 3 1970's-80's singer Ronnie
- 20 Fixes, as a bow
- 21 Product usually used at night
- 22 New York like
- 23 Puts to the test
- 24 Girls at the playground?
- 25 Word before and after "by," "on," or "to"
- 27 Subsist
- 28 It may be relative
- 29 Wheat
- 31 Rear parts of an article of radio equipment?
- 36 Big atlas section
- 38 Party person
- 39 Kind of race
- 40 "No way"
- 44 Hero
- 45 Rest on
- 47 Assassins
- 50 Journalist Kupremet
- 51 More than just a jump
- 53 Barely bears
- 54 Slow dance with quick turns

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55 Provision of the Nat'l. Security Act, 1947

56 Grand ___ (wine appellation)

58 Golf club resembling an inverted V?

60 ___-Tiki

61 Retainers

63 Ones with potato peeler, for short

64 Break time

65 Shipping dept stamp

66 First-aid item

68 ___ takes?

69 Fume

71 Distillery items

72 Milk-related

76 2001 album with the #1 hit "Ain't It Funny?"

79 Mass offering

80 Time

81 Metallic restraint on Baryshnikov?

83 Architectural feature

84 55% Across relative

85 Northeast to/through option

86 Emasculate

88 Catty comeback

91 Symbol of slipperiness

92 Vikings' foes

93 Were briefly

95 Map abbr.

96 Take out

98 Alliance

99 Con men often use them

101 The Balcony, once: Abb.

103 Ball bearing on a spaceship?

105 Spot for a spare tire

108 Sister of Rachel

110 Cartoon dog

111 "Skip me"

112 Beneath a pendant opener?

117 Pretenses

120 Witnessed in the area of

121 What's left

122 Prom date

123 TV ratings period

124 Experimented with drugs, say

125 "National Velvet" star

126 Mass offering

127 Time to attack

128 Present for your communication with an English saint?

129 Ox-cup

130 Like a really big shoe

131 Hired gun

132 Range setting

133 "But who ___ to ___?"

10 Coal header

11 2002 World Series champs

12 Hills without peaks

13 Good fellers

14 Den

15 First-mover maker

16 "When Your Child Drives You Crazy" author

17 "Sure thing" for Speedy Gonzales

18 Mideast's Gulf of

19 Part of a wagon train's route

25 Garden party, maybe

28 Order more of

32 ___ Am. Ark.

33 Idiomatic, slangy

34 Sprang up

35 Squirt

37 Ghosts or goblins

38 President's monogram

41 When some insects are cited for being?

42 Sweet roll

43 Boxer Holyfield

46 Quickly, briefly

47 ___ de combat

48 Dismounted

49 Golfer Ballesteros

52 Maynard G. ___ of "The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis"

54 Annual celebration, for short

57 "The good ol'" place

59 The Things We Do for Love" rock group, 1977

60 Perceived intuitively

62 Miraculous cry at a revival meeting

65 Empire

67 One who may improve your outlook

68 Isle

70 Manchego cheese source

73 Food in bags or cans

74 The Kennedys, e.g.

75 1979 Nastassja Kinski title role

76 Tony's sister of "The Sopranos"

77 Mexican beer go-with

78 Impetuously, maybe

81 Car seat securer

82 Impresario Sol

87 Only in the past

89 "Past!"

90 Unseid of the N.B.A.

93 Lots of hugs, in brief

94 Lowest score

97 Ancient Palestinian

98 "La ___" (opera)

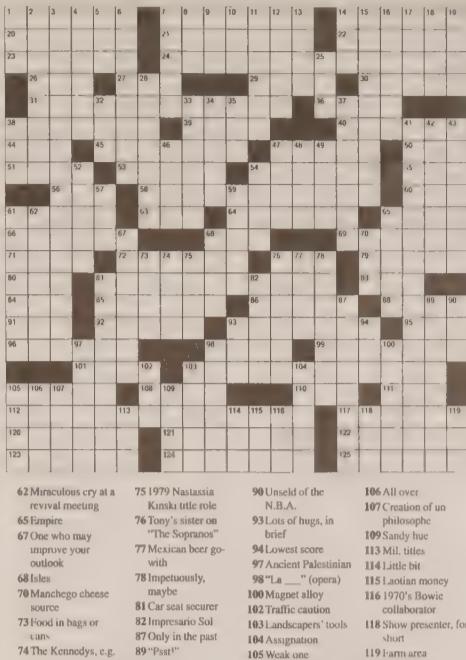
100 Magne alloy

102 Traffic caution

103 Landscapers' tools

104 Assassination

105 Weak one



'Eureka'

FROM PAGE C8

May Chan of San Jose re-creates her mother's wedding dress in an evocative way — from squares of tissue paper, each with a pocket holding a faded pink rosebud, sewn together with silvery thread that splays out at the edges. It's a haunting work — rosebuds picked before they ever bloomed, and in their neat little packages also suggesting cocoons, ready to burst, or be left behind.

Rachael Neubauer of San

Francisco moved to the Bay Area from Miami in 1996, and soon after worked in Silicon Valley in a job she describes as "mold maker-model maker-patent finisher."

Those skills come into play with dazzling simplicity in Neubauer's untitled work, a concave sculpture, mounted on a wall, that looks as if it might be layered with silver sequins. Viewed up close, it reflects the gallery spotlights to suggest a window into the universe — or life inside a mirrored disco ball.

Charlie Castaneda and Brody Reiman, two women who have known each other since they were university students, take over a gallery alcove for their art

installation — using the most ordinary material imaginable. Their raw materials are plywood scraps stacked into sculptures, lawn edging that undulates around the walls, cast concrete shapes meant for rustic-looking outdoor planters, with gray river rocks filling in the corners.

Inside this little room, you can imagine a child at play with a treasure of building materials, or an adult's remodeling project abandoned in frustration. Coincidentally, according to the exhibit catalog, both Castaneda and Reiman grew up in half-built houses.

So what about those 126 beer bottles? Tom Marioni of San Francisco has arranged them side by side on seven shelves,

forming a shape known in the art world as the "golden rectangle."

Of course, for this veteran conceptual artist, they're more than just beer bottles. They were emptied during Marioni's Wednesday afternoon get-together with friends during the year 2000, and he says they represent "an aid to communication," among other things. They also recall a project Marioni produced years ago at the Oakland Museum. It was titled "The Act of Drinking Beer with Friends is the Highest Form of Art."

Robert Taylor covers fine arts for the Times. Reach him at 925-977-8428 or rtaylor@ ctctimes.com.

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ALAMEDA COUNTY

By XXXXX Deputy

FILE NO. 365408

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NAME STATEMENT

The name of the busi-

ness: VIVA LA TAQUERIA

located at 1400 1/2 BERKELEY

RUSSELL ST. IN BERKELEY,

CA 94703 is hereby regis-

tered by the following

owner(s):

DONG YUN CHOI

122 LAWRENCE RD.

ALAMEDA, CA 94502

11A 1/2 BERKELEY

127 LAWRENCE RD.

ALAMEDA, CA 94502

This statement is conduct-

ed by: husband and wife

/s/ Dong Yoon Choi

7/1/05

This statement was filed

with the County Clerk of

Alameda County on date

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above.

Registrant has not yet be-

gun to transact business

under the fictitious busi-

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in.

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Publish Pub Dates JUNE

1, 8, 15, 2005.

FILED JUNE 06, 2005

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ALAMEDA COUNTY

By XXXXX Deputy

FILE NO. 365407

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

NAME STATEMENT

The name of the busi-

ness: SECRETARY

DATA SYSTEMS

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SERVICES located at

address 15 SHATTUCK

SQUARE, SUITE 200, IN

BERKELEY, CA 94704

1151 is hereby registered

by the following

owner(s):

15 SHATTUCK SQUARE

SUITE 200, IN BERKELEY,

CA 94704-1151

This business is conduct-

ed by: a corporation

/s/ Gisele Block

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FILED MAY 20, 2005

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County Clerk

ALAMEDA COUNTY

By XXXXX Deputy

FILE NO. 365408

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

NAME STATEMENT

The name of the busi-

ness: BENTLEY DANCE

COMPANY located at

address 1430,

JOSEPHINE ST. APT 0-6,

BERKELEY, CA 94703

This statement is conduct-

ed by: /s/ Miriam Kelic Morley

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ALAMEDA COUNTY

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FILE NO. 365408

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

NAME STATEMENT

The name of the busi-

ness: VIVA LA TAQUERIA

located at 1400 1/2 BERKELEY

RUSSELL ST. IN BERKELEY,

CA 94703 is hereby regis-

tered by the following

owner(s):

MODERN COMBATIVES,

LLC

533 VILLAGE DR

EL CERRITO, CA 94530

This business is conduct-

ed by: a corporation

/s/ Miriam Kelic Morley

This statement was filed

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Alameda County on date

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above.

Registrant has not yet be-

gun to transact business

under the fictitious busi-

ness name(s) listed here-

in.

Expires JUNE 20, 2010

Legal Berkelely Voice

#1724

Publish Pub Dates JUNE

1, 8, 15, 2005.

FILED JUNE 20, 2005

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By XXXXX Deputy

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ALAMEDA, CA 94502

11A 1/2 BERKELEY

127 LAWRENCE RD.

ALAMEDA, CA 94502

This statement is conduct-

ed by: husband and wife

/s/ Dong Yoon Choi

7/1/05

This statement was filed

with the County Clerk of

Alameda County on date

indicated by file stamp

above.

Registrant has not yet be-

gun to transact business

under the fictitious busi-

ness name(s) listed here-

in.

Expires JUNE 20, 2010

Legal Berkelely Voice

#1743

Publish Pub Dates JUNE

1, 8, 15, 2005.

FILED JUNE 20, 2005

PATRICK O'CONNELL,

County Clerk

ALAMEDA COUNTY

By XXXXX Deputy

FILE NO. 365408

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

NAME STATEMENT

The name of the busi-

ness: VIVA LA TAQUERIA

located at 1400 1/2 BERKELEY

RUSSELL ST. IN BERKELEY,

CA 94703 is hereby regis-

tered by the following

owner(s):

DONG YUN CHOI

122 LAWRENCE RD.

ALAMEDA, CA 94502

11A 1/2 BERKELEY

127 LAWRENCE RD.

ALAMEDA, CA 94502

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Arts & Leisure

Friday, July 1, 2005



J.B. ALDERMAN

On DVDs

Willis' one note sings in 'Hostage'

HOSTAGE ROCKER

Tom Petty seems to have only one song, because the music he has made over the last three decades all sounds identical. But I like that one song, and I keep buying Petty's CDs. Bruce Willis is the acting equivalent of Petty's one song permuted dozens of ways. Willis always plays the same character, the tough, brooding guy, and he does it well. In "Hostage," Willis is a L.A. hostage negotiator turned small-town police chief. As you might expect, hostages are taken, lots of bullets are fired, and all hell breaks loose. This film is an enjoyable, frantic thriller that made me sweat. Lots of violence and kids in danger makes this DVD off-limits for anyone under 15. (R: Violence and language). 1 hour and 53 minutes.

Ratings (out of 4 stars):

Overall: 2 1/2 stars

Kids: 0 stars

Teens: 3 stars

Adults: 2 1/2 stars

Seniors: 1 1/2 stars

Should you rent it? Yes — Pick it up if you're looking for a sweaty-palm thriller.

HITCH

Without Will Smith starring as the ultra-smooth matchmaker, "Hitch" would play like a mediocre cable TV movie. But with the dynamic, charismatic Smith at the helm, the film succeeds as a charming romantic comedy. As the title character, Smith makes a living coaching hapless men on how to woo and win the women of their dreams. "Hitch" breaks no new ground, and it isn't much different from 20 other films you've already seen, but none of that bothered me. I laughed a lot and rooted for the boys to get their girls — which (are you sitting down?) they all did. Adults and teens will be able to relate to the characters, but many seniors are likely to find it all a bit silly. (PG-13: Language). 1 hour and 58 minutes.

Ratings (out of 4 stars):

Overall: 3 stars

Kids: 2 stars

Teens: 3 stars

Adults: 3 stars

Seniors: 2 stars

Should you rent it? Yes — The perfect rental for a date night at home.

Tarzan II

Disney's cartoon prequel features Tarzan as a boy who searches the jungle to find his true identity. Instead of discovering his origins, little Tarzan seems to spend most of his time running away from man-eating animals or falling into gorges. Why he doesn't suffer concussion after concussion eludes me, but the plucky, loincloth-wearing youngster always manages to pick himself up and dust himself off. In the end, Tarzan discovers it's OK to be different from everyone else, always a reassuring message for kids to hear. Glenn Close and George Carlin lend their voices and do a nice job of perking up the script. Kids ages 6-10 will enjoy this fast-moving, entertaining DVD, but anyone younger is likely to be scared by the action scenes. (G). 1 hour and 11 minutes.

Ratings (out of 4 stars):

Overall: 2 1/2 stars

Kids: 3 stars

Teens: 1 star

Adults: 2 1/2 stars

Seniors: 2 1/2 stars

Should you rent it? Yes — A winner for kids over 6 years old.

J.B. Alderman lives in Berkeley and can be reached via www.PhDVD.com.



EVIL VILLAINESS Toxic Passion (Jennifer Lucas), left, squares off against her archenemy, super heroine Thunderbabe (Bobbi Fagone) in the comedy adventure. The play runs from July 1-16 at the Altarena Playhouse in Alameda.

PAUL TEDRICK

Supermom breaks out her cape

■ Thunderbabe is a 'laugh-out-loud show' and a reminder of the great powers of a mom

By Suzanne LaFetra

CORRESPONDENT

Faster than a minivan in the carpool lane. More powerful than superweight spandex. Able to leap high hormone levels in a single bound. It's a wife, it's a mom, it's ... Thunderbabe! Thunderbabe is coming to save the world from July 1-17 at the Altarena Playhouse in Alameda.

Belmont resident Bobbi Fagone stars in the world premiere of Thunderbabe, a comedy directed by Ann Kuchins. Fagone plays the lead, and she's also the playwright. The inspiration came a few years back. "I was having a midlife crisis," says Fagone. She had been to an audition and gotten cast in a role for a 55-year-old. "I was only 46!" she says, rolling her eyes. "A friend said to me, 'Welcome to the terrible 2s. Too old for the ingénue roles, too

young for the senior discount.'"

Without her cape, Thunderbabe is Babe Griffin, a soccer mom and host of "The Virtual Homemaker," wife to a mild-mannered lawyer hubby. Tucked safely away in her past, along with her superhero persona, is a former flame, the crime-fighting Golden Falcon. When arch-rival Toxic Passion turns her secret weapon, the Enfeebleizer, a youth-siphoning contraption, on Babe's teenage daughter, Thunderbabe's unitard, along with her hidden secrets, comes out of the closet.

Incredibly, Fagone typed up the last pages of her play nearly a year before Pixar announced its blockbuster film about aging superheroes titled "The Incredibles." And, although the spandex fits tightly for both sets of characters, Thunderbabe is a home-grown story about a woman in midlife, a supermom who has hung up her cape to pursue family life. "It's more of a tale of a desperate housewife," says Fagone. "Age is one of the issues in the play," says director Ann Kuchins. But it's also about secret identi-



THUNDERBABE tries to referee the bickering between Golden Falcon (Ben Ortega), left, and Finchboy (Frederik Gorist). The cost is \$15, and \$12 for seniors and students.

ties, repression, maturing. "As superheros, they're fading into the horizon," says Kuchins. By the end of the play, she says, they have "a different confidence, and they're also able to gracefully pass on the torch to the next generation."

Ben Ortega, who plays Golden

Falcon, says the show is extremely funny. "But it's more than that. There's some depth in it."

"There is?" Fagone interrupts, and the cast cracks up.

See PLAY, Page C3

Intriguing area artists exhibit diversity

■ IF THERE'S a theme to "Eureka," the exhibit at the UC Berkeley Art Museum, it's that Bay Area artists are producing fresh new works and winning awards without cramming computers or video monitors into a gallery.

Meticulous black-and-white photography and oil paint on linen are among the media, side by side with works made with tissue paper, dried rosebuds and basswood cut into miniature lumber for a model house.

That's just the beginning. Also on view are cast-concrete construction blocks, a tree crafted from Styrofoam packing forms and 126 empty Pacifico beer bottles. All this in the gallery most recently filled with Peter Paul Rubens' Baroque-era oil sketches.

There's also a computer-assisted painting: Rohnert Park artist Chris Finley's "Moths." The swirling elliptical shapes are actually derived from the faces of nine of President Bush's cabinet members. Finley used a computer program to convert them to line drawings, then transferred the distorted shapes to canvas.

What these artists share is \$300,000 from the San Francisco-based Fleishhacker Foundation, which has granted each of them a \$25,000 fellowship, the Bay Area's largest cash prize for individual artists.

"Other than the fact that they rose to the top of the nominee pool," notes curator Constance Lewallen in the exhibit catalog,

ROBERT TAYLOR
In the Galleries

GALLERY

■ UC BERKELEY ART MUSEUM: "Eureka: The Eureka Fellowship Awards 2002-2004," works by 12 Bay Area artists, through Aug. 14, 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays-Sundays; 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursdays, \$5-\$8, 510-642-0808, www.bampfa.berkeley.edu

"the artists in 'Eureka' don't have a great deal in common. Rather, they exemplify the healthy diversity of styles, attitudes and media that is characteristic of Bay Area art."

Lewallen calls these dozen men and women "some of the region's most exciting artists." They're not fresh out of art school — many have taken part in exhibits at San Francisco galleries and beyond. "Eureka" offers a chance to discover them all in one place.

San Francisco artist John Bankston has two big paintings in the exhibition: "Pink Sunset" and "Into the Rainbow." They're sketchy, dreamy works that might have been inspired by the viewer to imagine what's going on.



TOM MARIONI'S "Golden Rectangle 2000," left, includes 126 empty beer bottles. May Chan's "sprout-wither" is a re-creation of her mother's wedding dress, made of tissue paper and rosebuds.



UC BERKELEY ART MUSEUM

Jim Christensen of Oakland creates framed houses at that point before the walls, windows and other finishing touches are added. In his case, they represent the many houses where he lived with his mother, and then with his father, across the country. He stacks them up, one on top of the other. Combined, they're meant to evoke an ideal home.

See 'EUREKA', Page C4



JACK TUCKER
Community Theater

'Anything Goes' opens July

■ ANYTHING GOES nowadays the as-a-glassy-set opening July 8 at Costa Civic Theatre, was swamped by tsunami-suicide before it landed Broadway in November.

In September, the show already well into rehearsal, a libretto by Guy Bolton and P.G. Wodehouse, was built around the adventure of a group of passengers who survived a shipwreck.

Then fiction suddenly restored a terrible fact. On Aug. 8, 1934, the U.S. steamship Morro Castle, bound from San Francisco to New York, burned in Asbury Park, N.J., with a loss of 134 lives.

Producer Vinton Freedman decided the only way to save the show was to have it rewritten, working around existing Cole Porter songs, drawer principals as Edward G. Robinson, William Gaxton and others.

There was just one problem: Bolton and Wodehouse were unavailable.

Thinking fast, Freedman produced his "Anything Goes" director, Howard Lindsay, and the Theatre Guild press agent, named Russel Crouse, prevailed on them to supply a new book — in just two days.

And so began one of the most profitable collaborations in theatrical history. And did it first with "Anything Goes," opening next Friday, playing weekends at Costa through Aug. 13.

Porter's erudite wit and songs as "You're the Top," "Get a Kick Out of You," "course," "Anything Goes" endures pleasantly.

Directed by Mark Mitten with musical direction by Joanne Gabel and choreography by Loretta Kinney.

Contra Costa Civic Theatre at 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for youths 16 and under, 510-524-9132 or visit www.ccct.org.

A THOUSAND AND LAUGHS: Watching Ken Campbell's virtuosic performance of "The Thousand and One Night" at the Alameda Theatre is an obliteration of time. It can remove a clever storyteller, queen Scheherazade in "Arabian Nights" — castastrophe for time to thwart a dire fate.

For 1,000 nights, the endary queen told her husband stories so ingeniously linked to pique the curiosity that he finally lost interest in killing her.

In Carol Wolf's play, the queen is sole survivor of a street-fighting troupe who stumbles into a railway station in man-occupied France after escaping from a tollbooth for a death camp.

The station is loaded with gendarmes — actually, the audience.

De Bonheur knows the pickles. He has been performing subversive plays. He swears it's not what if the gendarmes like him? Maybe a few capers will convince us that he is not there.

And so begins some units of physical waggery, which Campbell portrays characters ranging from a choking dwarf to a swash-buckling soldier, from a bosom wife to a vaporous ghost.

Written 10 years ago for Campbell, "The Thousand and One Night" is directed by Jessica Kubzansky, co-director of Pasadena's at Boston Court. Although Wolf and Campbell are in the Bay Area, the show has not been seen locally.

The play runs at 8 p.m. Wednesdays-Saturdays and 7 p.m. Sundays, through July 24. Tickets are \$30 at the Alameda Theatre at 951 Pomona Ave., St. Berkele, Calif. Call 510-524-9132 or visit www.ccct.org.

Reach Jack Tucker at jtucker@ccctimes.com.

Friday Auto Plus

cars.com

Advertising supplement to The Montclarion, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

Friday, July 1, 2005

Section D

The 2006 Lincoln Mark LT is much more than a pickup truck

BY TOM KEANE

MOTOR MATTERS

2006 Lincoln Mark LT pickup gives meaning to the word "truck." This is designed to carry tons of sophisticated luxury with elegance, style and class.

Nevertheless, the Mark LT is a genuine pickup capable of doing the entire hauling expects of a workhorse, while conning a high level of style and sophistication. I even felt like wiping my shoes before climbing into the driver's seat. The 4x4 is capable of doing all the ordinary pickups do because it sits on the solid foundation of the Ford F-150. I'm told it has a fully boxed frame, window glass, liquid-filled engine mounts and inset doors with double-seals to help reduce the unwanted tire, wind and engine noise. This is the interior sound level very quiet similar to other Lincoln products. The makes a great "room" for listening to WFM six-disc CD with MP3 audiophile system, including a subwoofer and compensated volume.

The interior reflects its heritage with real wood accenting the center console, including both the sound system and climate controls. Duplicate controls are on steering wheel. The soft leather seat surfaces are accented with piping and interior is upscale throughout. It even has theater-dimming interior lighting.

The Mark LT pickup has four full-size seats five people comfortably with plenty of head, shoulder and leg room. The front seats are power-operated heated. The ride quality is plush, controlled. Because of the strong, hydroformed frame, the handling is similar to that of an upscale sedan, on rough surface roads. Steering is fast and precise, and in spite of its size, the Mark LT is very easy to maneuver. At 10,100 pounds, it was a cargo box 5 feet 6 inches long.

Lincoln engineers said the shocks



THE 2006 LINCOLN MARK LT pickup, left, is designed to carry tons of sophisticated luxury with elegance, style and class. The soft leather seating surfaces, inset, are accented with piping.

MOTOR MATTERS

KEANE ON WHEELS

are positioned to maximize their ability to properly manage body lean, particularly during lane changes. This feature becomes obvious when making a sharp turn, as I felt very secure due to the manner in which the truck held the road.

The base price four-wheel drive is \$42,700. My tester had a load of optional equipment, bringing the total to \$47,200. The options included such features as electronic auto temperature control, audiophile six-disc CD changer, power moonroof, power sliding rear window, platform running boards and trailer towing package, bed extender and a reverse sensing system.

Under the hood is a 5.4-liter 3-valve Triton V8 engine that produces 300 horsepower and 365 pounds-foot of torque and is connected to a four-speed automatic

LINCOLN MARK LT

Vehicle Type	Five-passenger, four-door, 4x4 pickup
Suggested Retail	\$42,700
Price as Tested	\$47,200
Engine Type	V8 Triton SOHC 24-valve w/SEFI
Horsepower	300 at 5,000 rpm
Torque	365 at 3,750 rpm
Transmission	Four-speed automatic
Wheelbase	113.8 inches
Height	67.3 inches
Curb Weight	5,677 pounds
Fuel Capacity	19 gallons
Mileage	City/highway 14/18

transmission with overdrive. This power has an electronic throttle control designed to provide instant response and consistent transmission shifts at various altitudes and various load capacities. It has an 8,900-pound towing capacity and a payload of

1,620 pounds. Obviously, the Mark LT is not just a showhorse; it's a workhorse, too.

The exterior is very stylish with a massive, chrome grille, sparkling headlamps, smooth lines down the body side and exceptionally large side-view mirrors. All this

sits on attractive 18-inch aluminum wheels. As for safety, this pickup has all the latest equipment, including LATCH for child safety seats. It also has a SecuriLock passive anti-theft system. Although it's a bit pricey for a pickup truck, all things considered, the Mark LT is much more than a truck.

INSIDE

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It was love at first site with 1960 Oldsmobile convertible

BY VERN PARKER

MOTOR MATTERS

It was a case of love at first sight when Ruby Batten turned a corner and there it was. The Oldsmobile Super 88 convertible waiting for her at the annual spring gathering of antique automobile aficionados in Carlisle, Pa.

Oldsmobile built 347,141 cars in 1960, including 17 models in 15 colors. The convertible version of the middle-of-the-line Super 88 carried a base price of \$3,592. A Pennsylvania man was one of the original 100 buyers of those Super 88 convertibles; he was a casino croupier with a black top. Some years later, he sold it to a friend, who eventually sold it back. In 1994, the original owner sold the convertible for sale in the car corral at Carlisle.

That was the year Ruby Batten went to Carlisle with her husband, Raymond, with the intention of buying an antique car. It didn't cost just any car, she decided; it had to be a classic.

After hours spent wandering through aisles lined with antique cars, Batten

CLASSIC CLASSICS

said, they turned a corner and there it was. It struck her fancy — Batten fell in love with it right then. She pointed to the car and told her husband it was the one she wanted. The firm statement was followed by a question: "What kind is it?" "I think it's a Pontiac," Raymond said.

Only when they got closer could they see her dream car was a 1960 Oldsmobile Super 88 convertible. Three different engines were available — starting with a 240-horsepower V8 and a 260-horsepower V8. This particular Oldsmobile came with the top-of-the-line 394-cubic-inch V8 that develops 315 horsepower to move its 4,134 pounds.

Walking around the car, taking in all the details, Batten knew she had made the right decision. She liked how the back bumper wrapped down around the backup lights. The long, horizontal tail lights flowed into the lines of the car, and the fender skirts gave the 18-foot-long car

a longer, lower appearance.

The three-tone interior was pristine. What wasn't covered in a blue, gray or white vinyl, or a gray carpet, was plated with chrome. The odometer registered about 97,000 miles.

Not much time was spent negotiating a deal before she became the third owner of the Oldsmobile. With her husband following in their modern vehicle, she drove her prize home to Maryland, the 123-inch wheelbase providing a luxurious ride.

She had to be careful with the automatic transmission because of the shift pattern. From the left the gear selector read: park, neutral, drive, second, low and reverse.

Once she got the convertible home, the couple spent time doing research on it. They learned that a similar Oldsmobile was the Indianapolis 500 pace car in 1960 and that inside the glove compartment is a vacuum-operated release for the trunk lid. The engine has to be running for it to work.

Also in the glove compartment, Batten points out, is a battery-powered transistor radio, which can be taken out of the car for entertainment at sporting events or picnics.

The upscale car is equipped with power steering, power brakes and an automatic headlight dimmer. Like every other Oldsmobile of that era, the two-spoke steering wheel is severely deep-dished.

Around the year 2002, the sleek convertible began smoking, so the big engine was rebuilt. With that task completed, it seemed only natural that the automatic transmission received the same treatment.

The convertible top was beginning to show signs of wear, and Batten happily discovered that in 1960, Oldsmobile offered convertible tops in six colors — blue, black, beige, green, white and turquoise. The black

top, which Batten had always considered depressing, was replaced with a white top, which she says is more appropriate for a happy car. The boot covering the convertible top, when it is lowered, is held in place by 24 snaps.

Since the mechanical parts were rebuilt, the car has been driven about 20,000 miles, Batten said. More trips are planned — most of them to antique car shows.

For your car to become the subject of the *Classic Classics* column, send a photo (frontal 3/4 view) plus brief details and phone number to Vern Parker, 2221 Abbotsford Drive, Vienna, VA 22181. Only photos of good quality will be considered.

According to the National Highway Transportation Administration 25 percent of all cars on the road today have at least one tire whose air pressure is more than eight pounds under factory specification. Underinflated tires can overheat, and are a serious safety hazard. Check the air pressure in your tires at least once a month.



RUBY BATTEN saw the 1960 Oldsmobile Super 88 convertible, it was truly love at first site.

Report focuses on federal crash test problems

BY CHERYL JENSEN

MOTOR MATTERS

If the government's crash tests are going to continue to help consumers, important changes need to be made to ensure they are relevant and provide complete information, according to a report by the U.S. Government's Accountability Office.

The report focuses on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's new Car Assessment Program, which consists of three tests: full-frontal crash, side-impact crash and a rollover test. Vehicles are rated for how well they protect occupants in a crash using a system of five stars, with five indicating the best.

The study also looked at how crash testing is done in Australia, Japan, Europe and by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety in the United States.

The report criticizes NHTSA's side-impact and full-frontal crash tests. It states usefulness of those current tests has been "eroded" by the growing number of pickup trucks, sport-utility vehicles and minivans, and that NHTSA's testing program hasn't been updated to take that into consideration. Instead, NHTSA continues to focus on car-to-car collisions. NHTSA doesn't use all the data it collects to calculate vehicle safety, according to the report.

In the side-impact test, NHTSA uses a ram of a size that duplicates a car striking a vehicle in the side. Since the ram is the height of a car, it does not intrude through the window of the vehicle being

DOWN THE ROAD

tested the way a taller sport-utility vehicle or pickup truck would.

The GAO's report said that testing with a taller ram, such as the one used by the Insurance Institute, would give a better picture of how much or how little protection a consumer could expect in a crash with a truck, now that more trucks are on America's roads.

It is alarming to see how much the results vary. The Institute, which is funded by the insurance industry, tested 27 vehicles using a ram that is about 45 inches tall — roughly 12 inches taller than the ram NHTSA uses. That means the top is more likely to intrude into the window of the vehicle. All 27 vehicles got the institute's lowest rating. However, in NHTSA's test, using the car-sized ram, 21 of the 27 vehicles got either four or five stars, the highest ratings.

The GAO criticized another test: the full-frontal test in which the entire front of the vehicle hits the barrier. All the other countries noted in the study — Australia, Japan, Europe — as well as the Insurance Institute have abandoned this test in favor of an offset crash test in which only a portion of the front of the vehicle hits a barrier. Safety researchers with those groups all said this offset test better duplicates real-world crashes.

The full-frontal test has been successful in making automakers improve the crashworthiness of their vehicles.

Ninety-five percent of all the vehicles tested in 2004 got either four or five stars, but the GAO report stated this has eroded NHTSA's ability to challenge automakers to continue improving vehicle safety.

And, with so many vehicles doing so well, it also diminishes the value to consumers. Some safety researchers have said NHTSA should declare victory with its full-frontal test and move on to other, more demanding tests.

Another important criticism is with NHTSA's limited use of the data collected from the instrumented crash dummies in order to calculate a vehicle's safety. For example, to determine the star ratings for its side-impact tests, NHTSA uses readings from the chest and lower spine. Although it measures and collects other readings, such as those for head injuries, it does not use them in calculating the star rating. If the readings are high enough to cause concern, it identifies them on the Web site as "Safety Concerns."

The report identified over 140 concerns on the site since model year 1990. Thirty-six of these were for vehicles that received the highest four- or five-star ratings. Safety concerns, for example, included high head "acceleration" ratings in side crashes, which could indicate a high likelihood of serious head injuries in a real-world crash.

The GAO report stated: "Having a Safety Concern noted for vehicles with a four- or five-star rating presents conflicting information that could be confusing to consumers."

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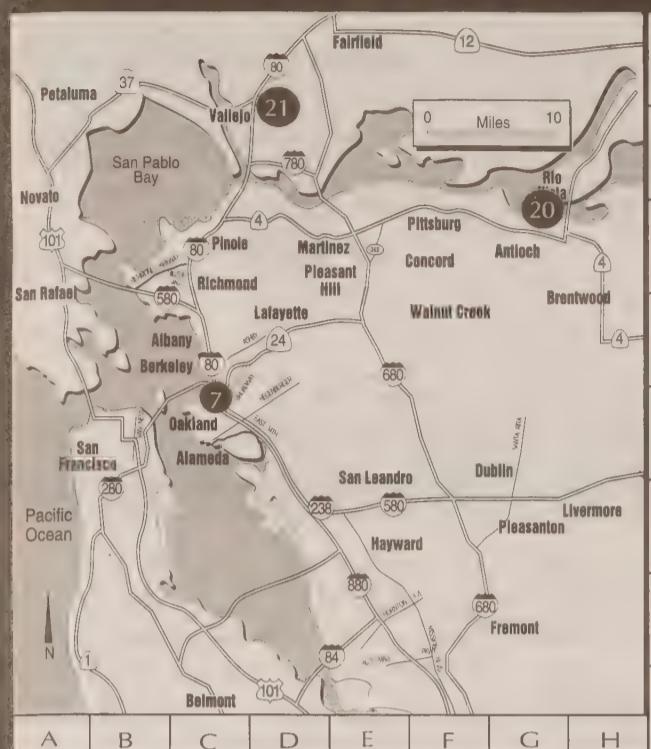
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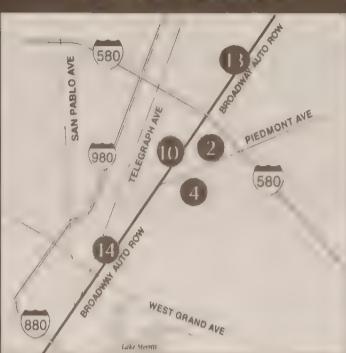
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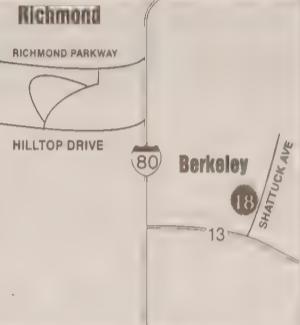
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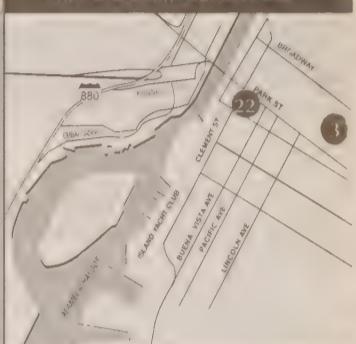
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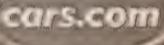
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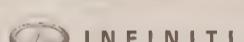
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CAT Rockridge blk. male tabby, 8-9 mos. old. 510-289-4101

COCKTAIL 6/23, Dawson & Serpentine, Antioch 924-3534

DOG 9/23/05 Lasa Apso, deaf, 2-3, Discovery Bay, 925-240-5564

DOG: Male Shep mix, Reddish-Gold, in Antioch, 928-754-6694

HEL MET & Keys @ Main St. Antioch 924-3178

KEYS, Harbor & Atlantic, Pittsburg, 6/26, 925-473-9493

LADIES Ring in Livermore, 925-449-1400, Livermore PD to ID. Refer Case #04-1400

PAKAKA 6/23, Hwy 4, Antioch 924-3538, Call 925-757-9003

PET BIRD, 6/27 on Lawton St, Antioch, Leave msg @ 925-978-5052

RABBIT, pet, Pablo, & Dressed, 925-24-2648

TURTLE Found in Shad-ow Lakes, Brentwood, Call 925-628-3804

WATCH - Men, 6/25 @ McCafee Coliseum, Call to 925-230-5052

Lost

CAT - black male, neutered, on Reliez, Vly Rd in Lark 925-449-0798

COCKER Spaniel fem., "Puff", 10 mos, blk/w, brown above each eye & wht. on chest, 925-240-5564, Ensenada Dr, San Ramon.

DO NOT FOUND

DACHSHUND,熏, 6/26, brown & tan dapple, 925-634-5428

DOG, Pug, Fem, blk/w, wht chin, 8 yrs. Mel is super, 925-240-5564, co, 6/19, 925-708-3539

DOG, Shep mix, 1 yrs, eyes 1 blue, "Shelby", Danville, 925-736-2779

DOG-SMALL, Ilt. brown, Chihuahua, 925-240-5564

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RICHMOND, Fw, 90, M-F, Ages 1-12, 510-235-7269 #070213628

Pets

GERMAN Shep, male, 3 yrs, Sire, Sch-93, BSP, DAM, Sch-93, AKC, tattooed, 707-475-7573 www.hauspupper.com

GERMAN Shep, pups, 11wks, pure blnd, blnd, 100%, 925-234-7364

GERMAN SHED PUPS, AKC, 9 weeks & up, \$100. 925-240-5564

GOLEND Ret, AKC pups, 47 weeks, Vet checked, 925-846-0667

GOLDEN Retrievers, AKC, 1st shots, \$450, Call 925-949-3668

GUINEA PIGS \$15ea, 707-475-7457/748-1833

HIMALAYAN kittens, CFA reg, seal points, mink, 925-979-0119

JACK Russell Terrier pups, brown/Blk markings, see parents, 925-240-5564

KITTENS Adorable, box trained. Fixed, shots, 925-846-5595

KITTENS & CATS for adoption, 10 wks, 2-10 wks, healthy, 2 "tuxedo", 1 gray tuxedo, 1 white, 1 black, playful, fed organically. Adult cat, affectionate, 10 mos, 925-237-1900, 10 mos, Cynthia 510-237-1900, 510-5012

LABRADORREDS, blk, yellow, copper, M & F, 10 mos, 925-240-5564

LABRADORDOGS, pup, CKC, vac's, vet ck'd, 925-240-5538

LABRADORDOODLES, pup, www.darbyparksdoodles.com 925-619-4199

LABRADOR, AKC, shots, health guar, 925-634-1811

ADOPT A FOSTER, LARGE/SMALL DOGS, OPEN YOUR HEART TO ANIMAL IN NEED, 510-496-3484 5

YORKIE PUPPIES, AKC, 100%, 925-978-1167

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Employment	Employment	Employment	Employment	Employment	Employment	Employment	Employment	Employment
COURIER Costa has an excellent opportunity for individuals 9-00am-5pm. M-F. Person is good reading and writing skills, ability to follow directions. Must be excellent driver with knowledge of the SF Bay and local roads. Must be service oriented, a team player. Must be able to work 40 hours. Duties include driving vehicles, deliveries, pick-ups at other many locations. If you have valid driver's license, we would like to hear from you. To apply send resume to: Contra Costa Newspapers, Human Resources, Courier Department, 1000 Creek Dr., Alameda Creek, CA 94508. 925-777-8444	CUSTOMER REP SUMMER WORK COLLEGE STUDENTS 2005 HS Grade & Other \$15 Bas-App. Flexible Schedules. No experience needed. Self drive, travel conditions apply. Ages 17 & up. 757-521-4260	CUSTOMER SVC ADMINISTRATOR Pleasanton based food supp. Please apply. Ind. w/excel. comm. skills. Email: twinterd@dmssac.com Fax res. 925-484-4678 Web Id www.careerbuilder.com/200506261402230	CUSTOMER SVC Pleasanton based Food Sales Rep. Employer. Exp. res. Email res. salary req. to: selecttradesales.com	CUSTOMER SVC Sales Sales 150 or gcs4.com Fax res. 925-373-1225 Web Id www.careerbuilder.com/200506261401057	DENTAL ASSISTANT Dental Office for sale. Exp. exp. dental mgmt. Good dental background. Fax res. 925-373-1225 Web Id www.careerbuilder.com/200506261401057	DENTAL ASSISTANT Dental Office for sale. Exp. exp. dental mgmt. Good dental background. Fax res. 925-373-1225 Web Id www.careerbuilder.com/200506261401057	DENTAL ASSISTANT Dental Office for sale. Exp. exp. dental mgmt. Good dental background. Fax res. 925-373-1225 Web Id www.careerbuilder.com/200506261401057	DELIVERY DRIVER Up to \$1000/wk. Com-DMV. Fax 925-689-5563 Web Id www.careerbuilder.com/20050626135951
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ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

How much ice cream do Americans eat each year?
The U.S. ice cream industry rates about \$20 billion in sales per year. About 1.5 billion gallons of ice cream and frozen desserts were used in the United States in 2002. That's about 21 quarts per person! More than 90 percent of Americans eat ice cream.

Does ice cream get any special recognition?
It sure does — in 1984, President Reagan designated July as National Ice Cream Month, and encouraged Americans to celebrate with "appropriate ceremonies and activities," specifically, the third Sunday in July is National Ice Cream Day.

What are Americans' favorite ice cream flavors?
Vanilla is the most popular flavor of ice cream and frozen novelties (ice cream sandwiches, bars and the like). Coming out the top five are chocolate Neapolitan (that's vanilla, chocolate and strawberry), butter pecan and chocolate chip.

What's the difference between cream, custard, sherbet and all other things in the ice cream?

Frozen desserts fall into many different categories, and most of them have specific characteristics:
Ice cream: A mixture of dairy ingredients and sweetening and flavoring elements, like fruits, nuts or plate. Federal law requires ice cream to contain at least 10 percent fat and it must weigh at least 4 1/4 pounds per gallon.

Frozen custard or French ice cream: Must contain at least 10 percent milkfat and at least 1.4 percent oil solids.

Sherbet: Milkfat is between 1 percent and 2 percent, with slightly more sugar than ice cream. Must weigh at least 6 pounds per gallon.

Gelato: Contains sweetener, cream, egg yolks and flavoring, served in a semi-frozen state.

Sorbet and water: Contains no dairy ingredients.

Quiescently in a confection: A novelty item.

Frozen custard: Dairy products, such as milk and cream, have been removed.

Novelties: Separately packaged servings of a frozen dessert, with no dairy ingredients.

So what does "light" ice cream mean?

The Food and Drug Administration uses the labeling of food products, including ice cream, so that consumers know what they're getting, no matter where they buy. Here's a guide to eating light:

Ice cream: Contains at least 10 percent milkfat.

"Reduced fat" ice cream: At least 25 percent less total fat than the original product (either an off-the-shelf brand or the company's own brand). For example, an ice-cream maker's "reduced fat" butter pecan contains at least 25 percent less fat than the company's butter pecan.

"Light" ice cream: At least 50 percent less total fat or 33 percent fewer calories than the original product.

"Lowfat" ice cream: Contains a maximum of 3 grams of total fat (1/2 cup).

"Nonfat" ice cream: Contains less than 0.5 percent total fat per serving.

What's the best way to keep ice cream fresh?

Buy ice cream the last thing you buy before you check out.

Make sure the ice cream isn't soft when you remove it from the freezer.

GET THE SCOOP

— it should be thoroughly frozen and hard to the touch. The supermarket's freezer case should not be above -20 degrees.

■ If you're buying ice cream from an open-top freezer case, always choose frozen desserts stored below the freezer line.

■ Keep ice cream products together in a separate part of your grocery cart, or put them on top of other groceries.

■ Ask the person packing your groceries to include a freezer bag or extra brown paper bag for insulation.

■ Don't plan to stop anywhere else — the supermarket should be your last stop before you head home.

At home:

■ Never allow ice cream to repeatedly soften and refreeze. This can form clumps in your ice cream.

■ Set your freezer between -5 and 0 degrees. Ice cream should be served between 6 and 10 degrees.

■ Don't store ice cream in the freezer door, where it is subject to more temperature fluctuation.

■ Be sure to replace the ice cream's lid tightly before you return it to the freezer.

■ Don't store ice cream near uncovered food — nearby odors may affect its flavor.

7. What kind of spoon is best for optimum ice-cream tasting?

John Harrison, the official ice cream taster for Dreyer's, uses a gold spoon. Unlike plastic or wood, it doesn't have an aftertaste.

8. How is commercial ice cream made?

The basic ingredients — dairy ingredients, sweeteners, stabilizers and emulsifiers — are blended in a mixing tank. The mixture then goes into a pasteurizer, where it is heated. Next, the hot mixture is shot through a homogenizer, where more than 2,000 pounds of pressure per square inch break down the milkfat into smaller pieces, ensuring a creamy consistency. The mix is then quick-cooled to 40 degrees and frozen. During freezing, rotating blades called "dasher" add air to the ice cream, which produces the consistency we know and love. Finally, flavorings like fruits and nuts are dropped in and the ice cream is packaged and hardened at sub-zero temperatures.

9. How much milk does it take to make a gallon of ice cream?

About 12 pounds of milk are used to make a single gallon of ice cream.

10. When was ice cream invented?

There is some debate about when ice cream first appeared, but there is evidence that Alexander the Great ate snow and ice flavored with honey and nectar. The Roman Empire's Nero

Longest banana split: 4.55 miles, created by the residents of Selinsgrove, Pa., in 1988. The sundae required 24,000 bananas and 24,000 cherries.

Largest milkshake: 6,000 gallons, made in New York in 2000.

Largest ice-cream boat: 1,310 pounds, 8 ounces, made by SIA Glass AB in Sweden. Among the ingredients were 298 pounds of cream and 163 pounds of sugar.

16. When were ice cream cones invented?

Italian immigrant Italo Marchiony first produced the ice cream cone in New York in the late 1800s, and was granted a patent in 1903. But around the same time, the cone made an appearance at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis. Ernest A. Hamwi sold crisp, waffle-like pastries called "zalabis" from a stand next to an ice-cream vendor. When the ice-cream seller ran out of bowls, Hamwi rolled one of his waffles into a cone shape and let it cool. Later, Hamwi found an ice-cream company, and several other manufacturers began to make cones. Today, ice-cream cone machines can make about 150,000 cones in 24 hours.

17. How long have Good Humor trucks been around?

In 1920, Harry Burt, of Youngstown, Ohio, invented the Good Humor bar. He sent out a fleet of 12 chauffeur-driven trucks, outfitted with bells. By 1961, Good Humor Corp. owned and operated 200 trucks. The company no longer owns and operates Good Humor trucks. The ice-cream trucks you see in your neighborhood are owned by large ice-cream distributors or private individuals.

18. Why do I use rock salt when I make ice cream at home?

According to www.makeicecream.com, rock salt forces the ice surrounding the can of ice cream mix to melt. The resulting "brine solution" absorbs heat from the mixture of cream and sugar and gradually lowers the temperature until the ice cream begins to freeze. If there were no salt added to the ice, it would melt at 32 degrees Fahrenheit and eventually the ice water and mix would come to an equilibrium at 32 degrees. The ice cream mix, however, does not begin to freeze until its temperature falls below 27 degrees. So to freeze the mix, we need a salt concentration, or a ratio of 5 cups of ice to 1 cup of salt. At this concentration, the brine temperature should remain constant at 8 to 12 degrees. This allows the rapid cooling and freezing that is essential to making creamy ice cream.

19. How did the sundae get its name?

Ice cream sodas became popular with the rise of soda fountains in the late 1800s.

But in response to religious criticism for eating "sinfully" rich ice cream sodas on Sundays, merchants left out the carbonated water and created "Sundays."

Eventually the name was changed to "sundae."

John Harrison, the official taster at Dreyer's, worked at his uncle's Memphis ice-cream company — his family has been in the dairy and ice cream industry for four generations.

But he says a degree in dairy or food science is also a good start. Harrison also avoids spicy foods like peppers and garlic, and doesn't smoke, drink or wear strongly scented products like aftershave.

20. What are the lyrics to the "I scream, you scream" song?

"In the land of ice and snow Up among the Eskimos There's a college known as Oogie-wawa.

You should hear those college boys Gee, they make an awful noise When they sing their Eskimo tra la la.

They've got a leader, big cheer leader, oh what a guy!

He's got a frozen face just like an Eskimo Pie.

When he says, "Come on, let's go!" Though it's forty-five below Listen what those Eskimo all holler:

I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream!"

■ Visit www.makeicecream.com for more verses.

— Becky Sher, Knight Ridder/Tribune

SOURCES: GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS 2004; HAAGENDAAS.COM; WWW.ICECREAMUSA.COM; INTERNATIONAL DAIRY FOODS ASSOCIATION; WWW.DREYERS.COM; WWW.ICECREAM.COM; WWW.MAKEICECREAM.COM; WWW.KIDSHEALTH.ORG

Facts,
tips
and
trivia
about
the
tasty
treat

13. What causes "brain freeze"?

When something extremely cold touches the roof of your mouth, nerves can cause the blood vessels in your head to swell. That quick swelling causes the pounding and pain known as "ice cream headache." Usually "brain freeze" lasts about a minute, and even though it's painful, it's not dangerous. To avoid the pain, try eating ice cream more slowly, or warm it up slightly in the front of your mouth before it hits your palate.

14. How many licks does it take to finish a single-scoop ice cream cone?

According to www.icecream.com, it takes about 50 licks to finish a single cone.

15. Are there any world records related to ice cream?

Yes, several ice cream records are listed in "Guinness World Records 2004":

■ Most ice cream eaten in 30 seconds with a teaspoon: 5.8 ounces, by Jaime Andre Sargent da Silva of Portugal.

■ Largest ice-cream scoop pyramid: 3,894 scoops of ice cream, created by Carvel in New York in 2002.

— Becky Sher, Knight Ridder/Tribune

SOURCES: GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS 2004; HAAGENDAAS.COM; WWW.ICECREAMUSA.COM; INTERNATIONAL DAIRY FOODS ASSOCIATION; WWW.DREYERS.COM; WWW.ICECREAM.COM; WWW.MAKEICECREAM.COM; WWW.KIDSHEALTH.ORG

Italian lessons: Flavors of Southern Italy bloom at hotel and school near Sorrento

BY ELIO LETURIA
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Mami Camilla opened two years ago. Next to Sorrento, in the quaint town of Sant'Agnello, almost an acre of fertile land plays host to a hotel and cooking school just one block from the blue Mediterranean Sea.

Chef Biagio Longo, 52, a tall and sturdy man with hands big enough to easily knead 4 pounds of fresh pasta, welcomed the four students he had that week.

One was from Denver, another from Chicago, another a Philadelphian who lives in Budapest, and me, a Detroit from Peru. Wearing white aprons we gathered around the big marble island in the center of a no-frills kitchen.

"We are going to make a whole menu each class, all from scratch," he explained in his accented English.

The four students were given different tasks while Biagio explained each dish and its preparation. There was time for questions, jokes and making mistakes.

Time is not an issue with Biagio. "Italian cuisine is simple, earthy and tasty," he added. "I have worked all over the world but, still, my favorite dish is spaghetti with garlic and olive oil."

Biagio knew he would be a chef at an early age. He grew up surrounded by the fresh and hearty flavors of his mother's cooking. Right after high school, at age 17, he moved from his native Lecce, in Italy's southern province of Puglia, to Sorrento, where he enrolled in the Sorrento Culinary Cooking School.

From local restaurants and hotel kitchens, Biagio crossed the Alps and offered a passion for cooking in renowned hotels in cities like Brussels, Dusseldorf, and London. "That's how I learned English: working in London. I learned English in the streets," he said. He also worked on elegant cruise ships, had his own restaurants and traveled around the world.

Thirty-four years ago, he married Camilla. "We went to school together," he said proudly. For many years, Biagio would travel and work abroad. But it wasn't easy to be away from the family.

Chef had been hosting foreign students at their house, then two years ago she came up with an idea: "Why don't you start a school here, right at home? This could be a hotel and a cooking school."

They had the land and the house. Biagio had the knowledge and experience. And they had four

great children to help out: Agostino, then 30, Giuseppe, 27, Odilia, 22, and Laura, 14.

The cooking class was going well. Students sliced fresh pasta, chopped garlic, cut blood oranges, stirred the pot of simmering red sauce. The students marveled at how easy Biagio made it all look.

"To make a lasagna, you place a layer of the pasta we just made, add the mozzarella, the meatballs, the bechamel sauce, the sliced eggs, the Parmigiano and the tomato sauce. Then you repeat the process all over again."

"And the ricotta cheese?" a student asked.

"No, lasagna doesn't take ricotta," Biagio responded. "But I understand food can be adapted to people's preferences. I like to make people try my food and compare it to their versions and taste the difference."

Four hours went by. The students laughed, sipped wine and took notes. Hotel guests began to arrive in the adjoining ample dining room. Biagio already knew how many guests in the hotel were coming for dinner. The feast was about to begin.

A four-course meal was included for every student. For the guests, 15 euros — less than \$20 — gave them a seat for an authentic Italian dining experience and all the wine they want to drink. It looked like a scene from a movie. Americans, Australians, British and Japanese were among the regular visitors. "In general," the chef said, "People come here to relax, learn, eat and have fun."

Mami Camilla

Via Cucumella, 4 -80065, Sant'Agnello di Sorrento, Naples, Italy, 39-081-8770677

Mami Camilla offers various culinary vacations and cooking classes, the first three named after the women of the family.

Courses:

■ Odilia: 12-hour basic group class, 3 days a week, 12 dishes; 328 euros (US\$400)

■ Laura: 20-hour general group class, 5 days a week, 20 dishes; 433 euros (US\$529)

■ Camilla: 30-hour intensive group class, 6 days a week, 28 dishes; 583 euros (US\$712)

All courses include 6 dinners, attendance certificate, recipe book and apron. Classes can be extended to several weeks, according to individual needs.

Single classes:

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Who says office furniture has to live at the office

BY KAREN KLAGES
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CAGO — It used to be you avant-garde or at least perverse to buy a conference chair for your dining table or chair for your living room. It's not so anymore, now ideas are looking "soft" and looking "industrial chic" Starbucks are looking like living rooms.

great divide between of-
fice/hotel furniture (also
as "contract" furniture) and
furnishings no longer exists.

for a great shopping
in NeoCon, the contract
industry's premier trade
held last week at The Mer-
cer Mart in Chicago.

e a look at some of the in-
g products — with definite
potential — that we

ulino table. Sculptural table
Michigan-based furniture de-
manufacturer Joseph Jeup
a strong statement in a din-
ing room or boardroom. It's made
of Honduras mahogany and
is 95 by 42 inches. About
through the design trade at
Bright Group in Chicago, 70557.

different kind of rocker.
Rocking footrest, designed
under your desk. The idea
promote healthful movement
you're sitting for hours on
as well as support the feet
to ease pressure on the back. Made from polished
bamboo and molded plywood.
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from a databank of more
000 digital images that are
via an "art memory card" is
inserted into the screen.

The great divide between office/restaurant/hotel furniture (also known as "contract" furniture) and home furnishings no longer exists.

Images are licensed from art li-
braries, photography collections
and individual artists. The idea is to
grow a collection of Evolving Art,
which is also the name of the new
Chicago-based company behind it.

Set up for the 19-inch screen costs
\$2,000 and includes two art images, \$3,000 for the 23-inch size.
Additional art images/chips cost
\$100 apiece, less for multiple im-
ages. Visit www.evolving-art.com.

4. Angela Adams fabrics. De-
signer Angela Adams (known for
her hip, organic style and her
rugs, handbags and home ac-
cessories) is now doing fabrics for
Northbrook-based Architek. They
include wovens, boucles, vinyls
and highly durable Crypton fab-
rics. Starting at \$70 a yard through
the design trade at Architek, 800-
621-0827, or www.architek-ljh.com.

5. Clearance table. At its core,
it may be a conference table, but
this frosted glass and aluminum
number makes a clean, contem-
porary dining table. Expandability
is key. The 34-inch-wide table
grows from 47 to 95% inches long
(capable of seating 10) with no
leaves, levers, latches or hooks.
You simply slide and glide the two
panels of glass. Cost: \$1,175 from
TopdeQ, which is one of the
largest office furniture catalogs in
Europe. Visit www.topdeq.com or call
866-876-3300.

6. Chadwick chair. Don Chad-
wick, one of the original design-
ers of the (now-iconic) Aeron chair
for Herman Miller, unveiled his lat-
est adventure in seating, this time
for Knoll. Chadwick streamlined
the design and construction of this
chair, giving it a smaller footprint
than Aeron, fewer adjustments —
but with the touted suspension
seat. At a starting price of \$437 to
\$479, the basic Chadwick costs
about \$200 less than the basic
Aeron. In Chicago at Luminaire,

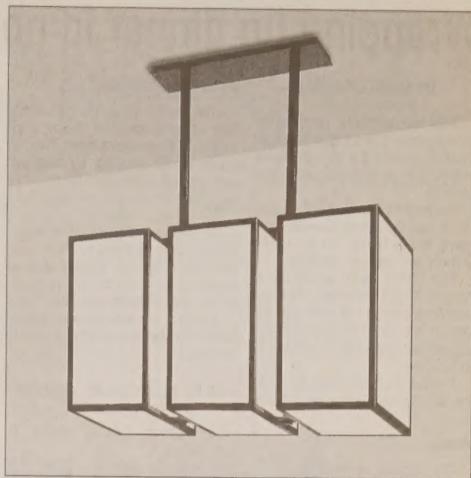
312-684-9582, and at Home Office
Solutions Group in Glenview, Ill.,
888-677-1600.

7. Elana side lounge chair. The low,
deep seat inspires a casual
"lounge-y" attitude, says
Chicago designer Douglas Levine,
who envisions his new chair for
The Bright Group in either a tem-
porary home or chic boutique
hotel. Approximately \$1,875, with
customer's own material, through
interior designers and the trade at
The Bright Group, Chicago, 312-
527-0557.

8. Tiro Media Console. Nu-
craft introduced a series of tem-
porary occasional tables for
lobbies or hall spaces. We liked
this one for the home front — and,

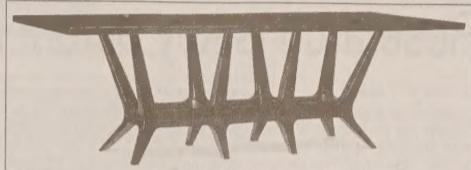
in particular, for dealing with the
large-screen TV and assorted gad-
getry. The shelving unit is con-
nected; the shelves are adjustable.
The console measures 72 inches
long and 9 inches high. Comes in
a variety of woods. About \$1,700.
Call Julie LaJoye at One Source,
for dealers, 630-587-0907.

9. Trio Pendant light. Boyd
Lighting is marketing this as a
small conference-table fixture. But
we thought it would look elegant
in a modern home. The three light
boxes are made from acrylic pan-
els and have a metal frame that
comes in a bronze or an alu-
minum finish. Starting at \$2,495
through the design trade at Boyd
Lighting, Chicago, 312-644-4300.



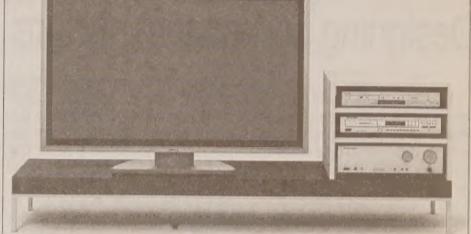
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TRIO PENDANT LIGHT.



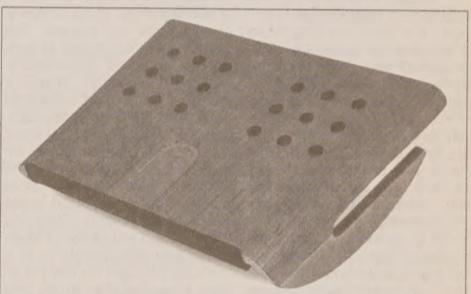
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Wrapping up dinner in no time with Pesto Salmon and Veggies En Papillote

BY MARK GRAHAM
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The en papillote method of cooking may sound fancy and intimidating, but it's as simple as wrapping in parchment paper and cooking.

Instead of parchment paper, which can be tricky for first-time users, we're using foil for these salmon and veggie packets.

This dish is easily adaptable to the grill: Place them over indirect heat on a closed hot grill until the salmon is cooked through and the veggies are crisp-tender, about 15-20 minutes.

The foil packets make for a fun presentation and very easy cleanup.

Menu

Olive spread on toast
Pesto salmon and veggies en papillote
Steamed rice
Peach ice cream

Beverage pairing

The cooking method gives the fish a very delicate flavor that might be overwhelmed by a chardonnay. Instead, try a crisp, well-chilled sauvignon blanc.

Tips

Make these packets before heading to a tailgate party or other outdoor potluck. They travel well in a cooler of ice and can be made up to four hours ahead of time.

Instead of salmon, feel free to substitute cod, trout, bass or monkfish fillets.

PESTO SALMON AND VEGGIES EN PAPILLOTE

6 salmon fillets, about 6 ounces each
1 teaspoon salt
Freshly ground pepper
1 lemon, cut into 6 slices
3 carrots, very thinly sliced
1 bunch green onions, thinly

sliced

1 cup canned sliced black olives, drained
6 sprigs tarragon
2 tablespoons jarred pesto sauce

1. Heat oven to 425 degrees. Cut six 12-inch squares of aluminum foil; set aside. Season salmon with salt and pepper to taste; set aside.

2. Place 1 lemon slice on the bottom center of each sheet of aluminum foil. Divide carrots, green onions and olives equally among the sheets.

3. Fold foil over salmon; seal sides and bottom by crimping foil edges together. Bake until salmon is cooked through and vegetables are crisp-tender, about 20 minutes. Transfer packets to serving plates; carefully cut open to serve.

Preparation time: 15 minutes, cooking time: 20 minutes, makes 6 servings.



PESTO SALMON and Veggies En Papillote.

BOB FILA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Designing homes that nurture

ARA

The way Bette Levin tells the story, it is a match made in heaven. After several disappointing attempts to find a designer to help transform the town home she and her husband recently purchased, Levin decided to track down a designer she had consulted on her previous home many years before. When they finally connected, it was like renewing an old friendship.

"You have to feel first and foremost that the designer 'gets you,'" says Levin, who was introduced to designer Ron Godshalk, ASID, through a friend. Some of the designers Levin had met with before were more concerned with presenting their ideas than understanding what was important to her. Godshalk was different. "From the very beginning I felt that he was looking out for my best interests," she says. "It was a very caring process."

For Godshalk, it's all about design right. "The first thing I ask clients is about how they live. That's where the design process begins." Lifestyle preferences affect not only choices about use of space, furniture and materials but environmental considerations like lighting and color. "Your environment should nurture you," says Godshalk. "Color is an important part of a person's life, but many people are afraid of color. Everything today is 32 shades of beige."

To create a nurturing home, Godshalk begins with basics. Even though he is doing the interiors, he thinks in terms of designing a total environment, taking into consideration the look of the building and the landscaping. He then focuses on the walls, floors and colors. Only afterwards does he consider the furniture. "If you set the stage right, the furniture can be incidental," he explains.

Nonetheless, furniture plays an important role in how a room feels.

"A lot of homes are overly furnished and not very comfortable," Godshalk contends. "Comfortable furniture and good lighting are essential: Fabric makes a room feel cozy. I have upholstered pieces made to order so that the scale is right for the client." He also likes interesting window treatments, but points out it's important to find a good shop that can do the work well. The care that Godshalk gives his clients and puts into his designs is an integral part of the nurturing environments he creates. The Levens had a fixed budget to work with. Based on his conversations with them, Godshalk created a multi-year plan and addressed priorities like the living room, bedrooms and kitchen first. "He spent our money in a way that made the house livable for us when we moved in," says Levin. "He made lots of practical decisions that I never would have thought of. Everything was here and just perfect. It made us feel very taken care of."

Godshalk views his designs as living things that change over time as lifestyles change and more pieces of the design are put into place. "I often work with clients over a five-year period, going back periodically to add something new or make adjustments. Sometimes clients try to get ahead of themselves and do more than they have the budget for. I will say no when I have to."

"There is not a day that goes by that I don't look around and actively love our home," says Levin. "My husband, too. We so appreciate what Ron has done for us."

For a free guide on how to select and work with an interior designer, "Designing Your Space," visit the ASID Web site at www.asid.org or send an e-mail request to arc@asid.org. To locate a qualified interior designer in your community, check out the free ASID Referral Service at www.asid.org.

— Courtesy of ARA Content

Research is key before remodeling your kitchen

ARA

So you've made the decision to finally join the millions of Americans remodeling their kitchens this year. Now what? The decision to remodel your kitchen is an important step in home ownership. After all, it is the busiest room in the house and one that often needs the most improvement. Before selecting the products that will turn your old, outdated kitchen into your family's dream kitchen, make sure to do your research.

Spending quality time looking through magazines, watching home improvement shows, and visiting kitchen showrooms and retail home improvement stores is a great way to begin your search for the perfect kitchen elements. Many homeowners desire a custom look for their kitchen, but can't afford custom features. In addition to high quality "custom" cabinetry, the industry also offers "semi-custom" cabinetry, which offers most of the features of "custom" cabinetry, but at a lower price point. Even today's "stock" cabinetry offers more choices for consumers at affordable prices. It is estimated that the average kitchen-remodeling job costs between \$15,000 and \$20,000. About half of your budget is going to go toward your cabinets. Based on that information, there's a lot to consider during the selection process.

More than meets the eye

Decorative features that reflect the homeowner's personal style are often a primary concern driving these decisions. Equally as important as style are the performance

and quality of your products.

"Most homeowners will only replace their kitchen cabinets once in their lifetime," says Dick Titus, executive vice president Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association (KCMA). "We encourage consumers to become educated buyers of kitchen cabinets. Our newly revised Web site with colorful photography offers useful information about selecting kitchen cabinets so consumers can feel confident they have made a smart decision."

To make sure you are getting long-lasting investment, look for cabinets that comply with industry standards for performance and quality. For over 40 years, KCMA has sponsored the nationally recognized testing and certification program for cabinets.

Homeowners should look for a unique blue and white seal located on the inside of the sink base cabinet. This seal assures that the cabinet has been independently tested and deemed durable under the toughest kitchen conditions. These cabinets are recognized by specifiers and in the marketplace as a quality product able to perform satisfactorily after a rigorous battery of tests simulating years of typical household use. Cabinets are selected at random from the production line or inventory and tested in third party, independent testing laboratories. Participating companies must test samples of their products annually. No other program subjects cabinets to such rigorous performance and quality requirements. In addition, the standards regularly are reviewed and updated consistent with stringent

procedures of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) that are strictly enforced. The KCMA certification truly is unique and a real benefit to consumers.

In order to meet the requirements for the KCMA certification program, cabinets undergo five structural tests to measure their structural integrity, two drawer tests, two door operation tests to measure durability, and four finish tests. To learn more about the tests cabinets must pass to earn the right to bear the distinctive KCMA blue & white certification seal, visit the KCMA web site at www.kcma.org. A listing of 100 manufacturers who comply with the standard also is available on the KCMA web site. In addition to the KCMA certification seal, customers should also look for products that offer a reliable warranty. Typically, five years is considered a good warranty.

Convenience is key

Now that you are more educated about purchasing cabinets, you are almost ready to begin remodeling. But first, remember to consider the convenience of your purchase. Find out if you will be able to order cabinets through retail chains like Home Depot and Lowe's, or if you will need to go directly to a kitchen dealer.

Also, the timing of your project

may impact your decision out how long the project take for delivery and installation and whether the installation will be completed with your purchase.

Check with your cabinet manufacturer to see if they offer owner care kits to replace up their cabinetry. This is sure that your cabinets will retain their new look for many years to come. Some manufacturers offer extra advice and tools to keep your cabinets in good condition.

For most families, the hub of the home — where they prepare meals, entertain guests and do home

research. For more information, visit www.kcma.org for a listing of manufacturers. For KCMA Web Site or KCMA members' web site, view detailed product information useful to you in your

research.

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7:00 - 7:30	Corn Eating Contest / Anthem
8:00 - 9:30	Edgar Winter

LIBERTY STAGE

5:00 - 7:05	Minerva
7:00 - 7:30	Dance Company
7:30 - 9:30	Fred McCarthy & Becca

SATURDAY JULY 9TH, 2005

10:30	Dave Crimmen Band
12:30	Corn Eating Contest
1:00 - 2:30	Auction
3:00 - 4:30	Take 2
5:30 - 7:00	Public Eye
8:00 - 9:00	Family Stone Experience

2:00 - 4:30	Silent Partner
6:30 - 7:00	Eoin Herringtib
7:00 - 9:30	Floor Shakers
9:30	Fireworks

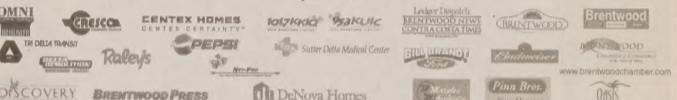
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3:30 - 4:00	Corn Eating Contest
4:00 - 6:00	PaPa Doo Run Run

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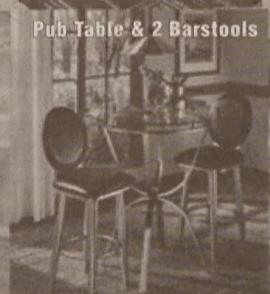


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